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Season 4: Issue 10 Monday 21st April 2008

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EAGLES CLIPPED

See inside for all the Foxtel Cup Games PP 4-16

Photo by John Punshon

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This week's line-up

Soccer Hotlines	3
Foxtel Cup Scoreboard	4
Knights v Coburg	5
Magic v Pines	6
Suburbs v AIS	7
Zebras v Eagles Preview	8
Blast From The Past	11
WPL Wrap	12
Football Focus	13
Bergers v Blues	14
South v Gully	15
Division One Wrap	16
Boo, Katsa & Tsigan	19 & 20
Asian Champions League	22
European Champions League	23
South Melbourne Poste	27

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MASI SIGNS WITH MAGIC

Can Pines secure sponsorship boost?

Fijian international Esala Masi has signed with Altona Magic, putting an end to a tug of war that involved Frankston Pines, Magic, Richmond and Division Three South East outfit Doveton. Pines can command a transfer free for Masi but as we went to press neither Pines nor Magic would divulge the amount.

Even though Richmond offered Masi terms, at one stage it looked like the Doves would win the race for his signature after the big striker walked out on Frankston Pines a fortnight back alleging that he had not been paid for five weeks, a claim that Pines strenuously denied.

We believe that had Masi signed for Doveton he would have taken up a contract with a South African club at the end of this season.

Doveton coach Sam Elmazi was non-committal when we spoke to him last week but we believe that Masi's brother Manoa and Veresa Toma's brother Viliame, both Fijian internationals, flew in to join the ambitious Waratah Reserve club a few days ago which sends a loud and clear message to the rest of the league that the Doves will settle for nothing less than a championship in 2008.

Elmazi already has lured former National League star Brian MacNicol (signed from Langwarrin) and Veresa Toma (from Oakleigh) to Doveton this season and we believe that negotiations with Tas Psomas, who has been training with Pines, are well advanced. If the Doves clinch the signature of the former Oakleigh, Bulleen, Port Melbourne and Springvale White Eagles player it would represent yet another coup for Elmazi's outfit.

The rumour mill has been rife with stories about a mass exodus from Pines but we believe that Pete Skledar, who recently took over as president after Errol Mustafa stood down, may be on the brink of signing a major sponsorship deal next month that could secure the club's financial future.

Skledar needs to act and quickly as the council has stepped in and refused the club permission to use its Monterey Reserve ground until next month, denying it important home game revenue. Pines are hopeful that their first game back on home turf will be under lights on Friday 9 May when they host Coburg United.

Pines' senior squad held a meeting a fortnight back and the players agreed to stay with the club, for the short term at least. However, there is no denying that many players are unsettled and although none of them would go on record, a few of them have been voicing their concerns privately.

Esala Masi ended speculation and joined Altona Magic at Paisley Park.

We were told that Boris Ovcin is keen to join Langwarrin, but when we contacted Langy senior coach Gus Macleod he said that he t no contact with Ovcin and that that was the first he'd heard of the move.

We also were told last week that Nick Waite could return to Mornington and that Cameron Jones was weighing up his options.

As for Pines senior coach Adam Jamieson, he's been fielding rumours of his pending sacking on an almost daily basis. Although Jamieson went through a period two seasons ago of not being paid regularly he has shown tremendous loyalty to the club and surely deserves better.

For the sake of the club and for football on the peninsula, let's hope Pines can ride out this current period of turbulence.

By Craig Mckenzie

Photos by Daryl Kennedy

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FOXTEL CUP STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	9	6	2	1	14	5	20
Melbourne Knights	9	5	4	0	17	7	19
Oakleigh Cannons	9	5	3	1	12	6	18
Richmond	9	5	2	2	25	9	17
A.I.S	9	5	1	3	17	12	16
Altona Magic	9	4	3	2	12	9	15
Heidelberg Utd	9	3	4	2	12	11	13
Whittlesea Zebras	9	3	3	3	14	15	12
Preston Lions	8	3	2	3	13	15	11
South Melbourne	9	3	0	6	15	15	9
Coburg Utd	9	2	2	5	9	14	8
Western Suburbs	9	2	1	6	7	19	7
Fawkner Blues	10	1	3	6	9	24	6
Frankston Pines	9	0	2	7	5	20	2

RESULTS

Oakleigh Cannons	1 - 1	Melbourne Knights
whittlesea Zebra	3 - 0	Frankston Pines
Coburg United	1 - 2	Altona Magic
South Melbourne	6 - 2	Fawkner Blues
Green Gully	3 - 0	AIS
Heidelberg United	1 - 0	Richmond Eagles
Preston Lions	3 - 1	Western Suburbs

UNDER 21 DETAILS

Oakleigh Cannons 1 Melbourne Knights 2, Green Gully Cavaliers 2 V.I.S 0, Coburg Utd 1 Altona Magic 1, Preston Lions 3 Western Suburbs 3, Whittlesea Zebras 0 Frankston Pines 2, Heidelberg Utd 2 Richmond 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	9	8	0	1	18	3	24
Richmond	9	7	0	2	24	10	21
Melbourne Knights	9	4	3	2	13	16	15
Coburg Utd	9	4	2	3	14	10	14
Frankston Pines	9	4	2	3	9	8	14
V.I.S	9	3	4	2	13	10	13
Altona Magic	9	3	1	5	10	13	10
Oakleigh Cannons	9	2	3	4	10	12	9
Preston Lions	8	2	3	3	10	13	9
South Melbourne	8	1	4	3	7	11	7
Whittlesea Zebras	9	2	1	6	13	19	7
Fawkner Blues	8	3	1	4	8	14	7
Heidelberg Utd	9	2	1	6	12	19	7
Western Suburbs	8	2	3	3	8	11	6

THE TOP MARKSMEN

Player, Club	Goals
Naidovski, Jason A.I.S	8
Curcija, Michael Altona Magic SC	7
Cardozo, Pablo Richmond SC	6
Nikolic, Joel Green Gully	5
Catalano, Michael Richmond SC	4
Danning, Kofi D A.I.S	4
Josifovski, Alexander Coburg United FC	4
Lagana, Frankie M Oakleigh Cannons FC	4
Cardozo, Richard Richmond SC	4
De Moraes, Fernando South Melbourne FC	3
Gasparis, Marino D Preston Lions SC	3

ROUND TEN FIXTURES

A.I.S
V
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
Austar Arena
Fri 25 Apr KO 7:30PM

RICHMOND EAGLES
V
COBURG UTD
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Sat 26 Apr KO 8:15PM

GREEN GULLY
V
PRESTON LIONS
Green Gully Reserve
Sun 27 Apr KO 5:00PM

ALTONA MAGIC
V
SOUTH MELBOURNE
Paisley Park
Mon 28 Apr KO 8:15PM

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS
V
HEIDELBERG UTD
Epping Stadium
Mon 28 Apr KO 8:15PM

Please check the FFV website for any fixture changes.

HEIDELBERG UNITED

1 - 0

RICHMOND EAGLES

EAGLES BROUGHT DOWN TO EARTH

Warriors rediscover fighting spirit

A fighting performance from Heidelberg United saw them defeat Richmond in an action packed contest at Olympic Village. The drama began before the game when Heidelberg had to replace back-up keeper Marko Sutalo after he was sent off in the Under 21's curtain raiser.

Richmond failed to show any early spark, and the home side quickly established a dominance of the play. Eight minutes in Stuart Webster had to head the ball when he charged out for a high ball that failed to travel into the penalty area. Josip Kozic pounced on the ball and sent a volley wide of the goal, but the Eagles had already gotten two defenders back on the goal-line to avert the danger.

A minute later Eric Vassiliadis sent in a cross which Mark Tsiorlas put wide. Stuart McCluskey had to make a last man tackle to prevent Kozic from shooting as the Bergers put the Eagles under the pump. The home side went close again in the fourteenth minute, a great inside ball from Graham Hockless leaving Dennis Alilovic one-on-one on a slight angle with Webster, and the Eagles keeper managed to pull off a great save.

Vassiliadis shot over the bar after a quarter of an hour, a deflection gaining a corner, which Hockless took and Tsiorlas just missed getting on the end of at the far post. Alilovic was booked for a high challenge on Shane Rexhepi in the twenty-first minute. A minute later a scramble in the goalmouth saw Vassiliadis put the ball over the bar from close range.

The Heidelberg momentum took a dent on the half hour when Saso Alexovski was sent off. Following a free-kick for his foul on Semir Sivic he remonstrated with several Eagles players before being shown the red card by referee Phil Taverna. Richmond skipper McCluskey received a caution at the same time. Just before the break Peter Gavalas cut out a ball aimed for Sivic, leaving the teams in a scoreless deadlock at the interval.

Richmond lifted a little on their lacklustre first half performance when play resumed. In the fiftieth minute Gavalas claimed an Aaran Lines cross under pressure from Jesse Krncevic. Then Daniel Jones put in a fine tackle to deny Sivic as he was shooting on goal. In the fifty-fifth minute Richmond had the ball in the back off the net, but Richie Cardozo was ruled offside when stroking home a Sivic cross.

The game turned again in the sixty-sixth minute when McCluskey received his second yellow card. With a minute Heidelberg had taken the lead. A shot from Tsiorlas was parried by Webster, Vassiliadis latching on to the ball and having time and space to slot it into the back of the net.

George Goutzioulis came on as a substitute and tried to make an impression against his former club, shooting just wide from thirty yards. With nine minutes left Krncevic headed a Sivic cross wide. Heidelberg the ground out the rest of the game, holding Richmond scoreless for a first time this season to record their third win of the season and leave them on the fringe of the Top Six. In a heated encounter which saw nine bookings, a third red card was issued after the final whistle when Pablo Cardzo kicked out during a post match scuffle.

Heidelberg United: P.Gavalas, D.Jones, R.Liparoti, J.Stefanou, E.Vassiliadis, G.Hockless, T.Ouliaris, J.Kozic (T. Paton 88'), S.Alexovski, M.Tsiorlas (J.Drossos 78'), D.Alilovic (E.Ameti 86').

Goal: Vassiliadis 66'

Yellow Cards: Alilovic 21' Kozic 31' Liparoti 55' Tsiorlas 72' Ouliaris 78'

Red Card: Alexovski 31'

Richmond: S.Webster, A.Lines, S.Rexhepi (G.Goutzioulis 70'), S.McCluskey, D.Tsiaras, J.Krncevic, S.Sivic, R.Cardozo, P.Cardozo, M.Catalano, Z.Cvetkovski (N.Kalambokis 83').

Goals: None

Yellow Cards: R.Cardozo 28' McCluskey 32' Sivic 75' Goutzioulis 86'

Red Cards: McCluskey 66' P.Cardozo 91'

Man of the Match: Eric Vassiliadis (Heidelberg)

Venue: Olympic Village
Crowd: 1000

By Mark Boric

Photos by John Punshon

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SOUTH MELBOURNE

6 - 2

FAWKNER BLUES

GOAL SHOWER WELCOMES COACH

Michalakopoulos given winning reception

A 6-2 home victory has given newly appointed South Melbourne coach Michael Michalakopoulos his first victory at the helm of the side where he enjoyed success as a player.

For South, there were two goals apiece to Gianni De Nittis and Ricky Diaco along with singles to Nathan Caldwell and Vasilios Natsioulas. Joseph Youssef and Jason Principato scored for a visiting Fawkner side whose play began tentatively and ended in defensive disorder.

With both sides languishing at the bottom of the table the early stages of play were understandably cautious, the home side eventually settled after 15 minutes and did not relent.

Having settled, South came close through Fernando De Moraes and Caldwell, before taking the lead in the 22nd minute through De Nittis. Benefitting from a corner needlessly conceded by Fawkner, Shane Nunes headed back across goal for De Nittis to knock the ball into the net from within the 6 yard box to make it 1-0.

The goal ignited confidence in South Melbourne while concurrently exposing the defensive frailties of Fawkner that would intensify as the match progressed.

Flowing movement began to typify South's play as De Moraes became central to their attacking ventures; his presence linked the midfield to the front men as balls started penetrating Fawkner's defence with increased regularity with only the performance of Fawkner goalkeeper Pasi Schwalger preventing further South scoring in the first half.

Schwalger foiled De Nittis twice and Sam Poutakidis in a five minute period that lead to his side grabbing an unlikely equaliser in the 40th minute when Youssef expertly controlled a long ball into the box on his chest before volleying past Dean Anastasiadis in the South goal.

Fawkner's parity would last only five minutes, however, as De Nittis secured his brace in identical fashion to his first as Fawkner were again undone by a ball to Nunes on the far past from a corner.

The notable defensive deterioration of Fawkner in the first half verged on disarray in the second period as South flooded forward in numbers.

Caldwell made it 3-1 in the 52nd after De Nittis casually clipped the ball past his marker on the right before sliding the ball across to the unmarked Caldwell to finish with his left foot.

Nine minutes on and a Caldwell back-heel placed the ball into the path of onrushing Natsioulas' to make it 4-1 as South players came to enjoy the freedom associated with the lack of defensive pressure.

Substitute Ricky Diaco replaced Caldwell in the 62nd minute and scored the first of his two goals five minutes after his arrival after getting a touch on De Moraes' low free kick through a crowded penalty area.

Diaco's well-taken second came in the 84th minute. After latching onto a Natsioulas through-ball, Diaco opened up his body and curled the ball past Schwalger to make it 6-1.

Principato scored a belated second for the visitors after some neat work by Zia Younan on the left but the goal would have little effect on the match other than to slightly rile South coach Michalakopoulos.

Michalakopoulos beamed post match as he spoke of the abundance of attacking options inherited in his new coaching role."The good thing is, all the strikers got on the scoresheet except Hamlet, so that's good for their confidence...some quality goals were scored," he said.

"The attacking options are pretty rich, we are focusing more on the defensive side and today they stood up...I am a bit disappointed by the second goal but we'll take six any day."

Man of the Match
Fernando De Moraes
(South Melbourne)

South:
D.Anastasiadis, S. Nunes, A. Van Dommele, S. O'Dor, G. De Nittis (H. Armenian 69'), V. Natsioulas, G. Zoric (Le Verde 69'), R. Tavsancioglu, F. De Moraes, N. Caldwell (R. Diaco 62'), S. Poutakidis.

Scorers: G. De Nittis 22', 45', N. Caldwell 52', V. Natsioulas 61', R. Diaco 67', 84'.
Yellow cards: A. Van Dommele 87'
Red cards: none

Fawkner: *P. Schwalger, M. Bosevski, Z. Younan, C. Tuck, B. Masic, J. Principato, J. Youssef, F. Husanovic (D. Radojicic 54') Y. Galanos (M. Alibeyi 65'), B. Cogger, A. Zilic (V. Juric '59).*

Scorers: J. Youssef 40', J. Principato '89
Yellow cards: Radojicic '66
Red cards: none

By Sebastian Kipman

Photo by Peter Kakalias

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WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS

3 - 0

FRANKSTON PINES

ZEBRAS TREBLE ROCKS PINES

Whittlesea keeps clean sheet for the first time this season

The Whittlesea Zebras found their winning form and kept in touch with the top half of the Foxtel Cup table with a 3-0 victory over the Frankston Pines at Epping Stadium.

The Zebras should have gained the lead in the second minute when Jerry Karpeh's cross landed to Sebastian Petrovic metres off the back post, only for his shot to be blocked on the line by the Pines defence.

Frankston immediately responded after the initial scare with Craig Smart sending a ball along the right hand flank to find striker Graig Metclafe. Cutting the ball on the inside, Metcalfe's left foot shot on the edge of the Whittlesea box curled inches away from the far post.

Whittlesea found the breakthrough in the twenty second minute when Ryan O'Hare was presented a ball from central midfield. Whilst the Frankston back four froze looking for the offside flag, O'Hare continues his run and found his way around goalkeeper Gary Pinter from twelve yards out and gifted the Zebras the lead.

On the half hour mark, Pine's defender Trent Malcolm nearly levelled the game by latching onto a corner on the volley, but his shot sailed millimetres over the bar. The highlight reel soon ended for Frankston, as Whittlesea began to dominate the remainder of the half. Whittlesea's Goran Talevski took a set piece along the left flank which Pinter spilt on the goal line, but recovered in knick of time to hold it before O'Hare was ready to swoop and collect his second goal for the match.

The Zebras however made no mistake with their next set piece. Steve Martin struck a free kick from twenty yards out on the right side to beat the Pines wall and a fully stretched Pinter, who had no chance of denying the midfielder his first goal for the evening.

Whittlesea continued to dominate the game in the second half and lifted a notch, but found it difficult to extend their lead thanks to some brilliant goalkeeping from youngster Gary Pinter. Only seventeen years old, Pinter was replacing first choice keeper Nikola Roganovic who was missing due to suspension and made a string of saves to guarantee another large defeat was on the cards for the Pines in the space of consecutive weeks. In the sixty fifth minute, Jerry Karpeh made a run into the Pines box but had has low drive stopped on the near post by Pinter. Minutes later Goran Talevski was denied by Pinter, after he stopped a cracking half volley from six yards out. Pinter was to the rescue again in the seventy fifth minute when O'Hare looked to have headed home Steven Martin's corner, only for Pinter to tip the ball out for a corner.

Frankston had few chances to find a goal in the second half and their best chance was wasted by defender Ross Duckworth. Duckworth was free on the back post and failed to convert from a set piece in the eightieth fifth minute. It would have granted the Pines an unexpected lifeline in the contest, but Whittlesea ensured that it was short lived five minutes later, when Karpeh received a throw from the sidelines in the Frankston midfield and noticed Pinter was off his line. Karpeh chipped a long ball from thirty yards out and the strike had enough power to sail into the back of the net moments before Pinter could hurry back on his line. Karpeh registered his first for the evening in style and the Zebras were finally rewarded with another goal after their continuous pressure on Pines.

Finishing 3-0 victors, Zebra's coach Peter Ollerton was pleased to have kept a clean sheet for the first time this season, whilst Ollerton's counterpart, and caretaker Frankston coach Tom O'Halloran was frustrated with the quality of his team's defending which he considered to have conceded three goals in easy circumstances. The Zebra's form resurgence will be tested when it hosts Heidelberg next round, whilst Frankston host the Western suburbs in what already is a 'six pointer' in this stage of the season.

Whittlesea: R. Simeoni, R. Antoniadis (c), J. Sherman, , G. Talevski, M. Vazzocchi (A. Colosimo 90'), J. Karpeh, R. O'Hare (S. Lamanda 77'), S. Martin, C. Molan, G. Lombardo (A. De Melo 85'), S. Petrovic.

Scorers: R O'Hare (22'), S. Martin (37'), J. Karpeh (90')

Yellow cards: Nil
Red cards: Nil

Frankston: G. Pinter, R. Duckworth, T. Malcolm, L. Trebbia (S. Mur 46'), D. Miller (M. Morris-Thomas 50'), C. Smart, C. Metcalfe, C. Leopold (c), A. Skledar, D. Black, A. Fadljevic (B. Ovcin 46')

Scorers: Nil

Yellow Cards: D. Miller 45', L. Trebbia 37', C. Smart 60', S. Mur 68'
Red Cards: None

Man of the Match:

Steve Martin
(Whittlesea Zebras)

Crowd: 200

By Simon McCuskey

Photo by Nome Risteski

COBURG UNITED

1 - 2

ALTONA MAGIC

MAGIC PUTS COBURG DOWN

Montemurro searches for answers

Under attack: Coburg's goal suffered numrous attacks from the Magic strikeforce and Coburg did not have any answers.

Since Coburg's reasonable start the first few games of the season their season has gone from bad to worse with the team failing to record a victory since round three's defeat of South Melbourne. Having recorded four losses and two draws in the last six weeks for a measly two pints out of a possible eighteen has seen them freefall down the VPL table. It was important for them to get a good result on their home patch but it proved not to be as the Magic deservedly ran out winners by the score of two goals to one.

Things started brightly for the home side with Andy Vlahos having an early chance on goal when he held off his defender to ping a shot wide of the Altona goal but this went wide as did many of the efforts for the night. Altona then showed that they were hungrier for the result and they began to assert a definitive control over the game that they really wouldn't relinquish throughout and live wire midfielder Henry Fa'Arodo was giving the Coburg defensive unit all sorts of trouble with his blistering pace. When he's on Fa'Arodo is a joy to watch and can terrorise a defence as he did for the entire game.

Fa'Arodo beat the Altona defence after about ten minutes but tried to do too much and eventually ran out of support and tamely lost possession. Curcija came close when he hit a rasping shot which the Coburg stopper turned wide and onto his post but the flag was up for offside.

Altona by this stage were bossing the possession but Coburg had all hands to the pump holding them off and Altona were playing the patience game waiting for the clear chance to strike. This chance came when a lunging tackle by Ross Thompson saw Fa'Arodo fouled about three yards out from the box giving Altona a free kick in a very promising position. Hrehoresin positioned his wall and took his position and Pece Siveski stepped up and struck one of the best free kicks your likely to see in Victoria this season to leave the Coburg keeper rooted to the spot as the ball hit the top corner having dipped wickedly over the wall.

As the players went into the sheds at half time with Altona good value for their lead, Montemuro had a lot to do because his side were being completely outclassed. Whatever he said seemed to have an effect on his team as they came out with a bit more purpose early on in the second half. However the game was put out of Coburg's reach when a defence splitting ball from the Altona Midfield found Fa'Arodo who had made a blisteringly quick run to peel away from the defence and took this ball one on one with the Coburg keeper who he smartly beat to the keepers right hand side to make it Coburg nil Altona two, it looked very bleak at this stage for Coburg as they weren't giving an indication they could score one goal let alone two.

As the final whistle blew and Altona celebrated you would think there would be some pressure building on Coburg to turn their season around having five losses and two draws in their last seven games this simply isn't good enough and not what Coburg would be expecting. Altona has done well with 15 point to be in or around the top, while Coburg could find themselves in the bottom three at the end of the week. Altona welcome a stuttering South Melbourne to Paisley park next weekend whilst it doesn't get easier for Coburg who travel to Kevin Bartlett to take on a Richmond side in decent form.

Coburg
Hrehoresin, Josifovski, Pir, Kovacevic, Gilmore (Tichy 74(, Mustafa (c) (Ucarli), Thompson, Gurpinar, Vlahos (Magnacca), Harrhy, Sumbul

Altona
Jevdjevic, Mrkela, Anthopolous, Laurie, Mladenovic (McSorely 23), Fa'Arodo, Recchia, Curcija (Sweeny 89), Siveski, Sherifovski, Cergovski (Wood 90)

By Reuben Schembri

Photo by Daniel Flis

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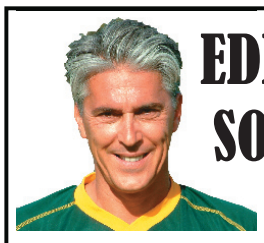

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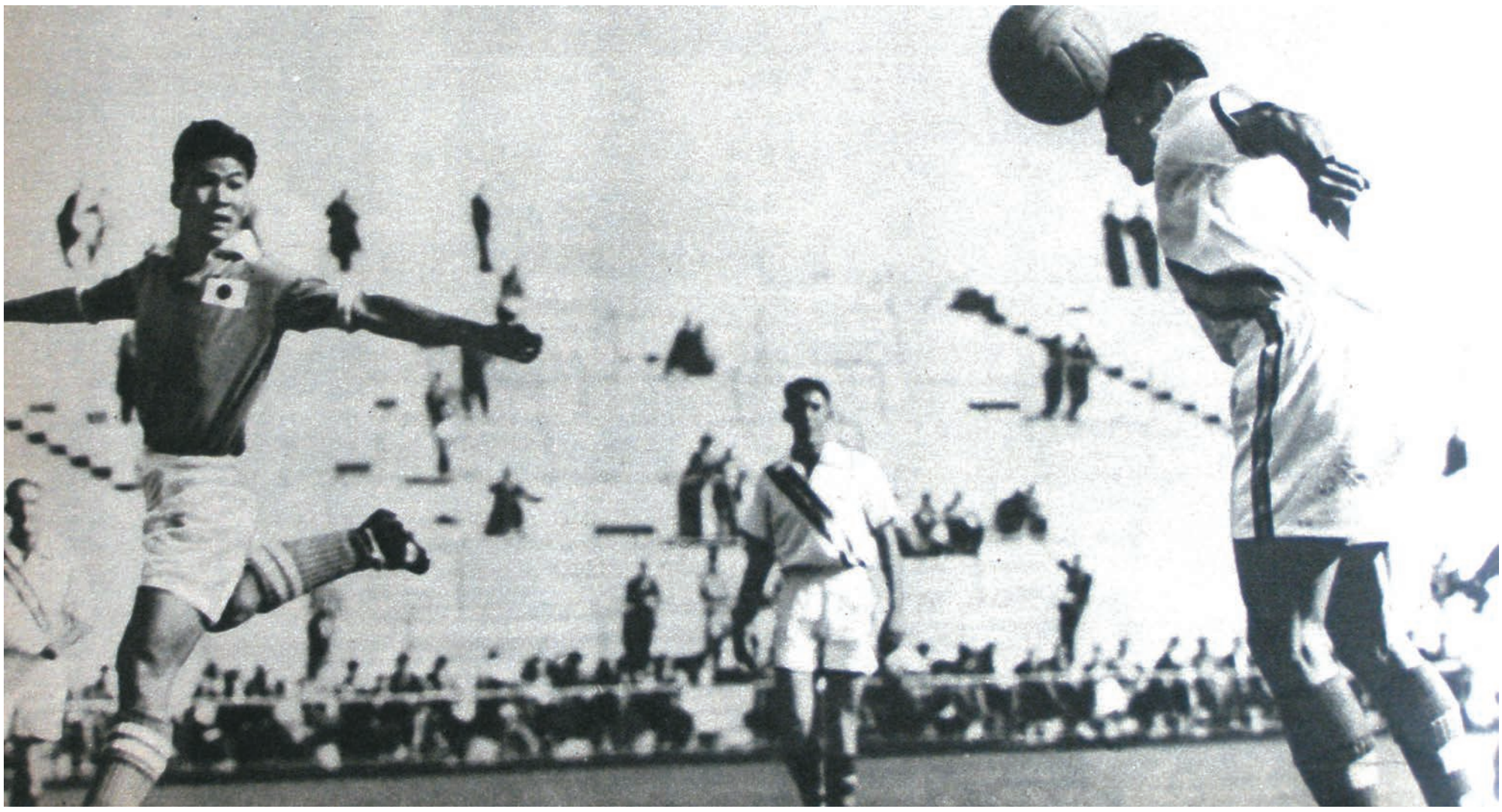


Australia against Japan in the Olympic Games of 1956. Source: Herald and Weekly Times publication The Olympic Games: Melbourne 1956.

OUR SPIRITUAL HOME

The park that gave us so much

Olympic Park has been the venue for some of the greatest games of football played in this country over the years. In 1966, 37,500 crammed into the stadium for a classic match between Victoria and the mighty AS Roma from Italy, while in 1985 Australia came close to qualifying for the World Cup in Mexico in a play-off against Scotland. The attendance in 1966 remains the ground record at Olympic Park and its modern capacity is almost exactly half of that to comply with current safety standards.

The area where Olympic Park stands in 2008 has seen many changes of use through Melbourne's history. The Botanical Gardens, Melbourne Zoo, the Melbourne Football Club and the Friendly Society Gardens occupied the site at various times. The modern ground was refurbished and developed for the Olympic Games in 1956. Though the final between Russia and Yugoslavia was played at the MCG, many of the preliminary matches in the Olympic Games of 1956 took place at Olympic Park, including Australia's opening win against Japan and its subsequent loss to India.

Before 1956 however, international matches involving Australia or an Australian Eleven were played at the MCG, Fitzroy Oval, the Showgrounds and St Kilda Oval in the interwar and immediate post-war years. The match against the 1951 English touring team took place at the Richmond Cricket Ground. In 1953 the first international match took place at Olympic Park, when Australia played a Hong Kong Chinese Eleven on 29 August, recording a loss by three goals to two in front of 15,000 spectators. The Showgrounds were used for two matches against Rapid Vienna in 1955 while reconstruction work went on at the Park.

Soccer News regularly referred to Olympic Park as 'Soccer's Headquarters' and showpiece club games took place there. In the late 1950s the big issues which divided the leading clubs and the governing body, the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association were the allocation of teams to play key matches at the Park and the subsequent division of revenue from them. The clubs which drew the largest support wanted to keep a higher proportion of the gate, while the Association preferred to redistribute funds for what it saw as the benefit of the game as a whole.

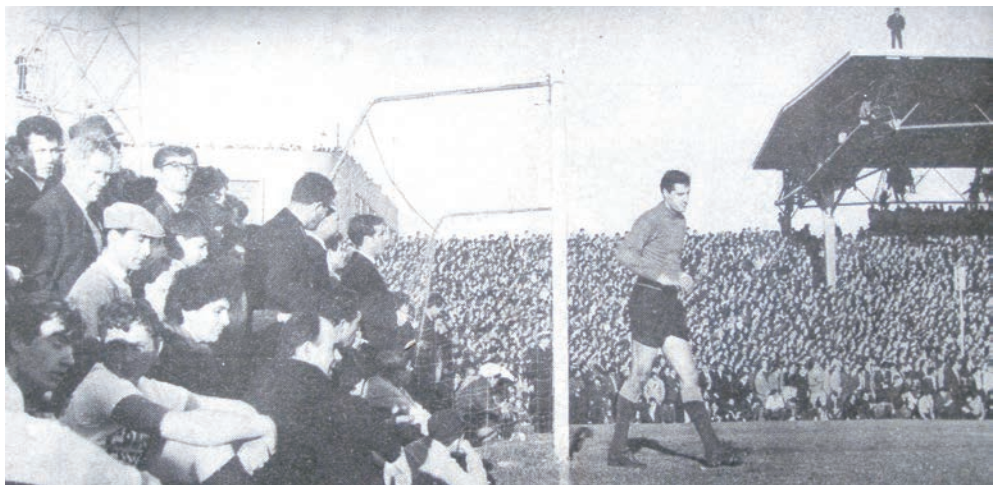
The rights to play games at Olympic Park was a key element in the take-over by the Victorian Soccer Federation in 1962 when it succeeded the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association as the governing body of the code in this state. In what was described as a 'popularity contest' of night matches, the VSF's games at the Park, outdrew those organised by VASFA at the Showgrounds and the latter gave up the unequal struggle.

World Cup qualifiers against Iraq in 1973, Iran in 1977, Indonesia and Fiji in 1981, Israel and Scotland in 1985 and New Zealand in 1993 took place at Olympic Park, though it has to be said that the results were not impressive. The loss to Iran by a goal to nil and the scoreless draw against Scotland were particularly disappointing, though no one could fault the effort of the Socceroos on either occasion.

Several games which pitted the Australian national team against visiting club sides were played at Olympic Park, including Blackpool in 1958, Heart of Midlothian in 1959, Everton in 1964, Chelsea in 1965, Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1972, Sunderland in 1976, Red Star Belgrade in 1977 and 1985 and Dinamo Zagreb in 1988. The Victorian State team also regularly met these tourists at the Park, sometimes gaining better results than the national side.

The World Youth Cup in 1993 drew large numbers of fans to watch the cream of the world's under-20 players. Melbourne Victory began its surge to extraordinary levels of public support at the ground, before its capacity proved insufficient and games moved to Telstra Dome. Now Olympic Park will be succeeded by a new purpose built stadium further along Swan Street, where a future history of the game will be written.

Jack Reilly in goal for Victoria trying to block a shot by Colin Stein of Glasgow Rangers during their tour in 1975. Rangers won that match by five goals to one. Source: Laurie Schwab, The Socceroos and their Opponents



Every vantage point taken as the crowd crams into Olympic Park for the Victoria versus AS Roma game in 1966. The Italian keeper is Fabio Cudicini, the son of Guglielmo Cudicini, a star with Triestina in the 1930s. Fabio in turn is the father of the Chelsea goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini. Apart from the fans squeezed up against the touchline you can see others on the pylons and the roof of the stand. Roma won the match by four goals to two. Laurie Schwab gives the crowd as 35,856. Source: Laurie Schwab, The Socceroos and their Opponents

Words by Roy Hay

Photos provided by Roy Hay

STARS SHINE, SAINTS SHOW THEIR WINNING COLOURS

The Southern Stars have continued their unbeaten run in season 2008 in State League 1 in the best possible fashion, belting Kingston City 6-1 at Ross Reserve on Saturday afternoon. This loss has provided a major reality check to those anticipating a quick return to the Foxtel Cup for Kingston, as they were clearly outclassed by the Stars during the second half. With only a Colin Quirk goal separating the two teams at half-time, the result was far from a given, until the floodgates opened after the break. Goals to Thierry Boi, Sercan Doganay, Barkan Sakaci, Andrew Ross, and another to Quirk however put the game beyond doubt, with the Stars' goals punctuated only by a solitary consolation goal to City's Jimmy Latinopolous.

Sunshine, though, have maintained their position at the head of the ladder to show their firm intent on promotion at season's end; the Georgies prevailing 1-0 in a tight-fought encounter at Keilor Park, who remain consigned to the bottom spot on the ladder. Keilor fought admirably against their more fancied north-western rivals, and were rewarded with a nil-all scoreline at half-time. However, after the break, Peter Koutsoupias managed to break the deadlock with the eventual winner for Sunshine.

St Albans have also shown their true mettle with a gripping 3-2 victory over Langwarrin at Lawton Park Reserve on Saturday. After the Saints had earlier grabbed a first-half lead through Liam Cannell, Langwarrin made matters interesting with two goals after half-time to the evergreen pair of Caleb Nicholes and Barry Tulloch. The Saints found the back of the net when it was needed most though, with Cannell scoring his second and Ilija Rados his first to secure the three points for the visitors.

Westgate, meanwhile, have kick-started their campaign with a resounding 4-0 win over the Springvale White Eagles on Saturday night. The Ardeer Reserve crowd were treated to a fine display of attacking football, with Bopan Pajic scoring either side of half-time, with additional goals to Joseph De Bono and Robert Trajanovski wrapping up the convincing win, the first of the season for Westgate.

Action between Langwarrin and St Albans

Also with their first win for the season, Dandenong Thunder emerged 5-2 victors in a goal-fest against FC Clifton Hill at George Andrews Reserve. With each side returning to the sheds at 1-1 at half-time, courtesy of goals to the Thunder's Veton Korcarevski and Clifton Hill's Milan Sajkic, it was the second half when the game opened up significantly. George Karkaletsis' goal for the visitors was cancelled out when Korcarevski scored again in the second half, along with goals to Ryan Davidson, Marcus Stergiopoulos and Alfonso Opazo, leaving Dandenong with an unassailable lead.

These results have created somewhat of a bottleneck mid-table, adding to the importance of a win for the Bulleen Royals and Bentleigh Greens in tonight's clash at the Veneto Social Club, kicking off at 8:15pm. The Royals and Greens sit on three and four points respectively, with a victory allowing both sides to keep pace with the league leaders; the Georgies, Stars and Saints.

SL1 ROUND THREE RESULTS

Keilor Park 0 Sunshine Georgies 1 (P Koutsoupias), Langwarrin 2 (C Nicholes B Tulloch) St Albans Saints 3 (I Rados LS Cannell 2), Southern Stars 6 (T Boi S Doganay B Sakaci AC Ross CF Quirk 2) Kingston City 1 (J Latinopoulos), Dandenong Thunder 5 (R Davidson V Korcarevski 2 M Stergiopoulos A Opazo) FC Clifton Hill 2 (G Karkaletsis M Sajkic), Westgate 4 (J De Bono R Trajanovski B Pajic 2) Springvale White Eagles 0,

U21: Rd 3: Keilor Park 3 Sunshine Georgies 3, Langwarrin 2 St Albans Saints 0, Southern Stars 5 Kingston City 2, Dandenong Thunder 1 FC Clifton Hill 2, Westgate 3 Springvale White Eagles 1

SL1 STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunshine Georgies	3	3	0	0	4	0	9
Southern Stars	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
St Albans Saints	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Bentleigh Greens	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Dandenong Thunder	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Langwarrin	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Westgate	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Bulleen Royals	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Kingston City	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Springvale White Eagles	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
FC Clifton Hill	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Keilor Park	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

By Jeremy O'Neill
Photo by Daryl kennedy

Langwarrin puts one through the Saints but it wasn't enough to secure a win.

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YANNI GALANOS
FAWKNER BLUES FC

FULL NAME: Yannis Galanos
BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne Victoria
BIRTH DATE: 6/6/85
HEIGHT: 180
WEIGHT:75
MARRIED: No
CAR: 1984 Puegot 505
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL: Student and part time painter
NICKNAME: Predator
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Too many to mention
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Australain Schoolboys 2003
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: David Ginola
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Paul Scholes
FAVOURITE V-LEAGUE PLAYER: Robert Dolevski
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Joe Palasidies
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Harry's still the man and he will bounce back
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Exhibition match I played in for PAOK
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Australia Vs Uruguay
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: A ridiculously good corner
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: In under 14s a team mate kicking a penalty out for a throw in.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Any time I have a bad game. So there have been plenty!
WORST INJURY: Torn left bicep. I did it while showing some girls it hurt so much I started to cry
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Erhan Karahan
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Any ground with grass on it at the moment.
SUPERSTITIONS: Don't believe in them
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: I usually make a tasty sandwich
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: I am naturally both footed
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: A big mouth and lack of facial hair
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Barcelona
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, boxing, golf, NBL
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Lazaros Papadopoulos (Basketballer) he is so big, fat and hairy and a great player
FAVOURITE FOODS: Meatball
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Ralph Macchio, Sophie Monk
HOBBIES: Breakdancing, boxing and outdoor rock climbing
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Ambassador Hotel
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Ambassador Hotel Lobby (Although it has recently been pulled down)
IDEAL DATE: I've got this thing for Lindsey Davenport
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Welcome Back Kotter, Australia's Funniest Home Videos
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Breaks, progressive house and minimal techno
FAVOURITE FILM: Somebody up there likes me
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Denmark National team shirt
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: People talk crap but no real rumours and certainly nothing funny
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Mum
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: I can't stand the motivational talks before the game.
FOOTBALL AMBITION: I know it sounds bad but I really only look forward to the next match
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : This is where I am meant to say Nelson Mandela and yes I would like to meet him too.
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S FOXTEL CUP: Green Gully

Photo by John Punshon

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GREEN GULLY

3 - 0

AIS

GULLY ARMADA BROADSIDES AIS

Cavs leapfrog Cannons and Knights

The Green Gully Cavaliers have leap-frogged both the Oakleigh Cannons and Melbourne Knights to take top position in the Foxtel Cup.
With Richmond still to play away to Heidelberg tomorrow, the Cavaliers are one point clear of the Melbourne Knights, two clear of the Cannons, and three clear of the Eagles. In remarkable fashion, Green Gully's Under 21's also jumped clear at the top of the Under 21's table, pending the result of Richmond's Under 21's against Heidelberg tomorrow afternoon.
In a dour first half, it was all the Australian Institute of Sport with the statistics. In sheer amount of ball time and shots on goal, the AIS should have won the game by a unanimous points decision from the judges, however, the AIS time and time again failed to break down the Gully defense and its goalkeeper Steve Tilovski and produce any real threat on the Gully goal.
For Green Gully it was a very quiet first half, but Ian Dobson made the most of a game against a younger team trying to play to a constructive team wide attacking system, that at the end of the day, took too long to get forward. Green Gully on the hand, welcomed its visitors to knock the ball around in defense, but when the ball was turned over, went looking for a knock-out punch.
That KO, came midway through the second half, new player Koce Delev scored his first goal for the club, and "got the monkey off his back". Shortly after, substitute Campbell Banks lost his monkey, with a stylish backheel goal, and followed that effort up with his second goal, beating the AIS defense for pace and running through on goal. Campbell Banks did strike a ball on the final whistle into the back of the AIS net, but it was a second too late, Campbell Banks just missing his second hattrick for the club in the space of12 months.

Green Gully Cavaliers 3 (Koce Delev 65, Campbell Banks 80, 85) A.I.S. 0

Best on Ground : Kristijan Ivesic
Crowd: 300
Green Gully
23 Steven Tilovski, 2 Kristijan Ivesic, 3 Steven Burton, 4 Dean Fak, 6 Kole Delev, 7 Fleming Jeffrey, 10 Koce Delev, 13 Manny Muscat, 14 Ryan Ollerton, 17 Andy Vargas, 18 Joel Nikolic
---
00 Patric Ndongo, 9 Campbell Banks, 11 John Adam
12 Matthew Sanders, 15 Dragi Nastevski,

Australian Institute of Sport
18 Mark Birighitti, 15 Sam Munro, 20 Dane Milovanovic, 3 Luke DeVere, 17 Ivan Pavlak, 6 Richard Greer, 14 Matt Theodore, 9 Jason Hoofman, 11 Jason Naidovski, 23 Kofi Danning, 22 Daniel Mullen
---
2 Travis Anderson, 8 Howard Fondyke, 4 Steve Tibbetts, 5 Peter Cvetanovski, 13 Laurenie Braude

By Markian Jaworsky
Photos by Daniel Flis

Joel Nikolic and Koce Delev press the point with the safe pair of hands of Steve Tilovski to keep Gully clean

FOXTEL CUP
Round 9

OAKLEIGH CANNONS

1 - 1

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

TEMPERS ERUPT IN TABLE TOP CLASH

Pelikan left bloodied and bruised

The group discussion turned nasty and former Cannons Anthony Pelikan came out worse for wear during Friday nights table top meeting.

Oakleigh Cannons held out for a 1-1 draw at home against the undefeated league leader, Melbourne nights on Friday night.
A crowd of 1500 watched an exciting match in near perfect conditions, the first meeting of the two sides since the Knights defeated the Cannons in the finals last year.
Whilst the travelling band of Knights fans filled the night air with their chants from the start, the Knights players took a little longer to find the right pitch.
The home team went on the front foot quickly with right midfielder Trent Waterson posing a threat early in the game. Frankie Lagana, John Munoz, Juan Nilo and Waterson all had early shots at goal without troubling Knights keeper Savas Ozdemir.The game soon settled into a lively paced midfield tussle, with few chances at either end until just before half time when a Knights' foul on Waterson gave the home side a free kick out wide. Stelios Drakos's inswinging cross found the head of the hard working midfielder Lagana who beat his marker to flick the ball over Ozdemir into the back of the net.
After the break, the Knights immediately imposed themselves on the match launching a fierce barrage of shots on the Cannons goal in the opening 10 minutes of the half, with Dario Matkovic, Alex Kiratzoglou, Andrew Barisic and Zoran Petrevski each firing shots at the target. Oakleigh had keeper Adrian Cagalj to thank for keeping his former team at bay. But in the 60 th minute the Cannons defence wilted under the weight of Knights' attacks when a goalmouth scramble from a cross led to Barisic driving the ball home from close range.
Matkovic and Pelikan continued to cause headaches for the home team down the flanks, as the shot count mounted to double figures for the visitors in the second half.
The Cannons had two or three chances to score a winner later in the half including a couple of efforts to Juan Nilo and a far post header to Felix Rosman from a corner. But they were playing deeper and deeper, defending grimly and relying on the counter-attack against a Knights team who would have been unlucky to lose.
After the game, Cannons coach Stuart Munro commented, "They (The Knights) are a quality outfit. They're a very very good team. They'll be up there or thereabouts at the end of the year. We were looking to win the game but the way the game panned out, especially in the second half, you'd settle for 1-1. They put us under the cosh a fair bit especially in the second half. Adrian the keeper was superb in the second half. As I said to the players, you learn more from these types of games than if you beat somebody 5 or 6 nil."
Knights coach Chris Taylor said after the game, " I was very proud of the boys in the second half, the way they took the game to Oakleigh. Probably in the end, a bit stiff not to have won it." When asked about his team's undefeated start to the season, Taylor commented " Well, I suppose it's a nice thing, but at the end of the day, three draws is not good enough. We need to be winning games as well. Draws pull everyone back to you. We'll probably lose top spot because we never took all three points today."

Lineups:

Oakleigh: A.Cagalj, F. Rosman, T.Waterson, F.Lagana (S.MacNicol 70'), s. Webster, S.Drakos, b. damianos, J.Munoz, A. Drakos, J. Nilo, T. Apostolikas (S.Kelly 64')

Scorer: Lagana 42'

Knights: S. Ozdemir, S. Iosifidis, M Grbesa, C.Elvin, I. Franjic, D.Matkovic, A.Kiratzoglou, A.Pelikan, C.Watson, Z.Petrevski, A.Barisic.

Scorer: Barisic 60'

Man of the Match: A. Cagalj

By George Stoggianou
Photos contributed

STATE LEAGUE ONE

ROUND THREE

STARS SHINE, SAINTS SHOW THEIR WINNING COLOURS

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
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Southern Stars	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
St Albans Saints	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Bentleigh Greens	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Dandenong Thunder	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Langwarrin	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Westgate	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Bulleen Royals	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Kingston City	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Springvale White Eagles	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
FC Clifton Hill	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Keilor Park	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

By Jeremy O'Neill

Photo by Daryl kennedy

Langwarrin puts one through the Saints but it wasn't enough to secure a win.

ROUND THREE

NORTH WEST 2

Seniors

Thomastown Devils 0 Pascoe Vale 1 (DA Genovesi), Williamstown 2 (E Kaya Z Todorovski) Maribyrnong Greens 0, Altona East Phoenix 3 (G Iedom 2 F Alghazaly) Ballarat Red Devils 1 (J Romein), North Geelong Warriors 0 Werribee City 1 (A Karanicolas), Brunswick City 0 Altona City 1 (T Saric), Cairnlea 1 (A Akin) Moreland City 3 (C Bellomo E Tokoglu RA Carchedi)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Pascoe Vale	3	3	0	0	4	0	9
Altona East Phoenix	3	2	1	0	9	2	7
Ballarat Red Devils	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Brunswick City	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Williamstown	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
North Geelong Warriors	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Werribee City	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Thomastown Devils	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Moreland City	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Altona City	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
Cairnlea	3	0	0	3	1	6	0
Maribyrnong Greens	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

Reserves

Thomastown Devils 3 Pascoe Vale 2, Williamstown 2 Maribyrnong Greens 0, Altona East Phoenix 0 Ballarat Red Devils 3, North Geelong Warriors 1 Werribee City 3, Brunswick City 2 Altona City 3, Cairnlea 1 Moreland City 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona City	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
Moreland City	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Thomastown Devils	3	3	0	0	8	5	9
Ballarat Red Devils	3	2	0	1	13	5	6
Cairnlea	3	2	0	1	6	7	6
Williamstown	3	2	0	1	7	10	6
Werribee City	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Pascoe Vale	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Altona East Phoenix	3	0	1	2	1	7	1
Brunswick City	3	0	0	3	2	6	0
Maribyrnong Greens	3	0	0	3	1	5	0
North Geelong Warriors	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

SOUTH EAST 2

Seniors

Doncaster Rovers 2 (D Iacovitti M Kustura) Casey Comets 3 (D Terek B Watson PM Presti), Port Melbourne 3 (D Jovanovski S Tolli B Norton) Peninsula Strikers 0, Northcote City 0 Diamond Valley Utd 1 (JM Carter), Eastern Lions 1 (M Verniers) Chelsea 2 (T Bosnjak I Bajo), Knox City 2 (N Veljovic AJ Saunders) Stonnington City 1 (A Gungordu), Waverley Wanderers 2 (P Pantelidis S Kramar) South Springvale 3 (I Diniotis A Koloskopis C Andronicou)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doncaster Rovers	3	2	0	1	11	4	6
Knox City	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Port Melbourne	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Northcote City	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Chelsea	3	2	0	1	7	6	6
South Springvale	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
Casey Comets	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Diamond Valley Utd	3	1	1	1	3	6	4
Eastern Lions	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
Waverley Wanderers	3	1	0	2	6	9	3
Stonnington City	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
Peninsula Strikers	3	0	0	3	4	9	0

Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 1 Casey Comets 1, Port Melbourne 3 Peninsula Strikers 2, Northcote City 1 Diamond Valley Utd 1, Eastern Lions 0 Chelsea 1, Knox City 1 Stonnington City 0, Waverley Wanderers 6 South Springvale 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox City	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
Chelsea	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Peninsula Strikers	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Waverley Wanderers	3	1	1	1	10	6	4
Doncaster Rovers	3	1	1	1	7	3	4
Casey Comets	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Eastern Lions	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Northcote City	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Port Melbourne	3	1	1	1	6	10	4
Diamond Valley Utd	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
Stonnington City	3	0	1	2	2	9	1
South Springvale	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

NORTH WEST 3

Seniors

North Sunshine Eagles 2 (R Isac 2) Geelong Rangers 2 (T Hardy 2), La Trobe University 0 Yarraville Glory 0, Banyule City 2 (S Patikkis 2) Sydenham Park 1 (S Stojanovski), Geelong 1 (J Ikanovic) Laverton Park 1 (R Mauna), Lalor 0 Lalor Utd 0, Sunbury Utd 1 (V Kalayci) Westvale 2 (H Timotheou DJ Sfetcopoulos)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Geelong	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Banyule City	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Westvale	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
North Sunshine Eagles	3	1	2	0	7	4	5
La Trobe University	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Lalor	3	2	1	0	4	1	4
Geelong Rangers	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Sydenham Park	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Lalor Utd	3	0	2	1	1	5	2
Laverton Park	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Yarraville Glory	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
Sunbury Utd	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Reserves

North Sunshine Eagles 2 Geelong Rangers 1, La Trobe University 5 Yarraville Glory 0, Banyule City 1 Sydenham Park 3, Geelong 3 Laverton Park 1, Lalor 3 Lalor Utd 1, Sunbury Utd 1 Westvale 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
La Trobe University	3	3	0	0	12	3	9
Geelong	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
North Sunshine Eagles	3	1	2	0	7	6	5
Westvale	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Sydenham Park	3	1	1	1	7	6	4
Sunbury Utd	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Yarraville Glory	3	1	1	1	5	9	4
Lalor Utd	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Laverton Park	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Banyule City	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Lalor	3	1	1	1	5	4	1
Geelong Rangers	3	0	0	3	3	6	0

SOUTH EAST 3

Seniors

Doveton 3 (L Buhic GS Davidson VR Toma) Southern Suburbs 1 (R Nicovski), Morwell Pegasus 1 (P Byrne) Berwick City 2 (J Fernand OA Mejias), Brandon Park 4 (S Kennedy 2 R Benedos 2) Heatherton Utd 1 (E Ahmetovic), Croydon City Arrows 1 (NA Gatzonis) Endeavour Utd 1 (T Ithier), Sandringham City 1 (ML McLeod) Springvale City 2 (A Osmani 2)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doveton	3	2	1	0	8	5	7
Springvale City	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Brandon Park	3	1	2	0	6	3	5
Croydon City Arrows	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Berwick City	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Morwell Pegasus	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Southern Suburbs	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Sandringham City	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Boroondara Eagles	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
North Caulfield	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Endeavour Utd	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Heatherton Utd	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

Reserves

Doveton 1 Southern Suburbs 1, Morwell Pegasus 3 Berwick City 5, Brandon Park 3 Heatherton Utd 0, Croydon City Arrows 3 Endeavour Utd 0, Sandringham City 6 Springvale City 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sandringham City	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
Croydon City Arrows	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Brandon Park	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Boroondara Eagles	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
North Caulfield	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Berwick City	3	1	2	0	9	7	5
Doveton	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Southern Suburbs	3	1	2	0	6	5	5
Morwell Pegasus	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Endeavour Utd	3	0	0	3	0	5	0
Heatherton Utd	3	0	0	3	0	7	0
Springvale City	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Melbourne Tornado 1 (J Saldanha) Whittlesea Utd 3 (S Mirik 3), Plenty Valley Lions 0 Corio 1 (P Prodanovic), South Yarra 2 (R Holder MA Hemetsberger) Glenroy 1 (A Babo), Western Eagles 2 (K Leski R Zadworny) Melbourne University Rangers 0, Melbourne City 1 (JL Ventureira) Elwood City 3 (K Djelassi P Nikolakopoulos S Hehir), Avondale Heights 0 Hume Utd 1 (K Kalayci)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume Utd	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
Elwood City	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Melbourne Uni Rangers	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Whittlesea Utd	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Avondale Heights	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Plenty Valley Lions	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Western Eagles	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
South Yarra	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Glenroy	3	2	0	1	5	2	3
Corio	3	1	0	2	1	4	3
Melbourne City	3	0	0	3	3	7	0
Melbourne Tornado	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Reserves

Melbourne Tornado 0 Whittlesea Utd 2, Plenty Valley Lions 4 Corio 0, South Yarra 1 Glenroy 3, Western Eagles 0 Melbourne University Rangers 2, Melbourne City 0 Elwood City 1, Avondale Heights 5 Hume Utd 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Plenty Valley Lions	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
Avondale Heights	3	3	0	0	11	4	9
Melbourne Uni Rangers	3	2	1	0	9	2	7
Elwood City	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
South Yarra	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Whittlesea Utd	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Melbourne Tornado	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Corio	3	1	0	2	4	10	3
Hume Utd	3	0	2	1	4	7	2
Melbourne City	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Glenroy	3	1	0	2	4	6	0
Western Eagles	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Ashburton 4 (B Jackson P Alexopoulos L Delaney JA Clemson) White Star Dandenong 2 (K Salih V Zuban), Fitzroy City 3 (D Jovic S Peutherer 2) Mooroolbark 1 (M Findlay), Old Melburnians 3 (A Carmody O Gomez Salaya T Wu) Scotch Old Boys 1 (B Whitaker), Noble Park Utd 5 (Z Seci D Djuric G Mrdic N Vukosavljevic 2) Warragul Utd 1 (MR Petersen), Monbulk 5 (B Adams 2 D Adams 2 Own Goal) Nunawading City 2 (AM Adem KN Zurita), Monash University Rowville Eagles

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Monbulk	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Noble Park Utd	3	2	1	0	11	3	7
Scotch Old Boys	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Old Melburnians	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Fitzroy City	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Mooroolbark	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Nunawading City	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Ashburton	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
Rowville Eagles	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
White Star Dandenong	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
Warragul Utd	3	0	1	2	3	8	1
Monash University	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

Reserves

Ashburton 2 White Star Dandenong 0, Fitzroy City 3 Mooroolbark 1, Old Melburnians 1 Scotch Old Boys 1, Noble Park Utd 2 Warragul Utd 3, Monbulk 1 Nunawading City 1, Monash University Rowville Eagles

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Fitzroy City	3	2	1	0	8	5	7
Nunawading City	3	2	1	0	7	5	7
Warragul Utd	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Ashburton	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Mooroolbark	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Monbulk	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Monash University	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Rowville Eagles	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Scotch Old Boys	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Old Melburnians	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Noble Park Utd	3	0	0	3	4	8	0
White Star Dandenong	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Northern Falcons 2 (D Dinucci A Matalone) Bell Park 0, Moreland Utd 1 (J Odisho) Essendon Utd 1 (D Meddis), Darebin Utd 0 North City Lions 3 (M Schiafone 2 R Nedelkov), West Preston 3 (J Maragos 2 M Bonafede) Brimbank City 1 (V Osmanovic), Melton 2 (S Mamo 2) Keon Park 0, Collingwood City 0 Hoppers Crossing 2 (K Bilos CA Muscat)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
West Preston	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
North City Lions	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Essendon Utd	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Collingwood City	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Keon Park	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Hoppers Crossing	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Northern Falcons	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
Melton	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Bell Park	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Moreland Utd	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Darebin Utd	3	0	0	3	1	6	0
Brimbank City	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

Reserves

Northern Falcons 3 Bell Park 2, Moreland Utd 0 Essendon Utd 7, Darebin Utd 0 North City Lions 4, West Preston 3 Brimbank City 1, Melton 2 Keon Park 2, Collingwood City 2 Hoppers Crossing 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
West Preston	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Essendon Utd	3	2	1	0	10	2	7
Northern Falcons	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
North City Lions	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
Keon Park	3	1	2	0	7	4	5
Melton	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
Brimbank City	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Collingwood City	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Hoppers Crossing	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Bell Park	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
Darebin Utd	3	0	0	3	2	12	0
Moreland Utd	3	0	0	3	2	15	0

PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Old Camberwell Grammar 1 (P Kapeleris) Berwick Kings 2 (M Djordjevic Z Kecojevic), Carrum Utd 3 (M Cordoma R De Reus F Dimu) Old Trinity Grammarians 0, Mornington 0 Riversdale 3 (A Christakakis 2 R Halliday), Dandenong Sparrows 0 Lyndale Utd 2 (R Roslan G Murray), Old Brighton Grammarians 4 (M Strintzos J Salvage D Hall M Cameron) Caulfield Utd 2 (P Kontogeorgis P Antonoulis), Keysborough 0 Whitehorse Utd 3 (L Marrone R McBride JA Kennett)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Berwick Kings	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Old Brighton Gramm	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Lyndale Utd	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Old Camberwell Gramm	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Whitehorse Utd	3	1	1	1	3	1	4
Mornington	3	1	1	1	6	8	4
Carrum Utd	2	1	0	1	4	1	3
Riversdale	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Caulfield Utd	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
Dandenong Sparrows	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Keysborough	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
Old Trinity Grammarians	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

Reserves

Old Camberwell Grammar 6 Berwick Kings 0, Carrum Utd 2 Old Trinity Grammarians 3, Mornington 2 Riversdale 3, Dandenong Sparrows 0 Lyndale Utd 2, Old Brighton Grammarians 1 Caulfield Utd 0, Keysborough 0 Whitehorse Utd 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Riversdale	3	3	0	0	12	4	9
Old Brighton Gramm	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Old Camberwell Gramm	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
Caulfield Utd	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Whitehorse Utd	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Old Trinity Grammarians	3	2	0	1	7	6	6
Lyndale Utd	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Dandenong Sparrows	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
Carrum Utd	3	1	0	2	5	10	3
Mornington	3	0	1	2	7	9	1
Keysborough	3	0	0	3	2	9	0
Berwick Kings	3	0	0	3	3	11	0

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Bundoora Utd 2 (D Chiodo NS Coyle) Surf Coast 1 (J Brown), Ascot Vale 3 (A Jalal 2 Own Goal) Moreland Wolves 1 (D Colella), Brunswick Zebras 4 (A Epifano 2 M Roca BS Holod) Brimbank 4 (Z Bogoevski 3 J D'Alessi), Dallas Eagles 1 (Al Pir) Mill Park 2 (S Hambalian B STAMER), Youth Utd 6 (E Kaplan SA Cicek 5) Northern Utd 1 (M Khalifa), Epping City 2 (C Spaliaras MA Micucci) Watsonia Heights 1 (M Tavolaro)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Epping City	3	3	0	0	12	3	9
Bundoora Utd	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Watsonia Heights	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Mill Park	3	2	0	1	5	5	6
Brimbank	3	1	2	0	11	7	5
Brunswick Zebras	3	1	1	1	8	6	4
Northern Utd	3	1	1	1	3	7	4
Youth Utd	3	1	0	2	10	9	3
Moreland Wolves	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Ascot Vale	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Surf Coast	3	0	0	3	2	9	0
Dallas Eagles	3	0	1	2	1	6	-2

Reserves

Bundoora Utd 2 Surf Coast 4, Ascot Vale 2 Moreland Wolves 1, Brunswick Zebras 2 Brimbank 1, Dallas Eagles 4 Mill Park 1, Youth Utd 6 Northern Utd 0, Epping City 1 Watsonia Heights 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brunswick Zebras	3	3	0	0	10	3	9
Epping City	3	2	1	0	13	2	7
Watsonia Heights	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Moreland Wolves	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
Brimbank	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Ascot Vale	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Youth Utd	3	1	0	2	7	9	3
Surf Coast	3	1	0	2	6	10	3
Northern Utd	3	1	0	2	4	11	3
Mill Park	3	0	1	2	2	8	1
Dallas Eagles	3	1	0	2	6	9	0
Bundoora Utd	3	0	0	3	6	10	0

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Dandenong Warriors 3 (K Hor HP Le D Masson) Eltham North 3 (C Melville R Adams BW Mulcahy), Endeavour Hills 3 (D Knell 2 A Mustafa) Uni. of Melbourne 1 (SF Palmisano), Keilor Wolves 0 Dandenong City 2 (Z Opsenica Own Goal), Old Carey 3 (R Stanner 2 RP Donovan) Seaford Utd 1 (W Moroney), Bayside Argonauts 1 (A Lafasanidis) Beaumaris 1 (DM Cappellari), Noble Park 3 (PA Placko 2) Brighton 1 (B Landes)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong City	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Endeavour Hills	3	2	0	1	8	7	6
Old Carey	3	2	0	1	7	6	6
Beaumaris	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Dandenong Warriors	3	1	1	1	8	7	4
Bayside Argonauts	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Noble Park	3	2	0	1	6	5	3
Uni. of Melbourne	3	1	0	2	6	6	3
Seaford Utd	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Brighton	3	1	0	2	6	8	3
Eltham North	2	0	1	1	3	7	1
Keilor Wolves	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Reserves

Dandenong Warriors 3 Eltham North 1, Endeavour Hills 3 Uni. of Melbourne 4, Keilor Wolves 1 Dandenong City 0, Old Carey 4 Seaford Utd 2, Bayside Argonauts 2 Beaumaris 4, Noble Park 1 Brighton 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Carey	3	3	0	0	14	3	9
Bayside Argonauts	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Brighton	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Dandenong Warriors	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Seaford Utd	3	1	1	1	14	5	4
Keilor Wolves	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Dandenong City	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Beaumaris	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Uni. of Melbourne	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Eltham North	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Endeavour Hills	3	0	0	3	4	20	0
Noble Park	3	0	0	3	2	17	-3

ResultsVault football

Visit http://football.resultsvault.com for football results and statistics

ROUND 4 FIXTURES

All matches to be played on Saturday 26th April with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

State 2 NW
Ballarat Red Devils v North Geelong Warriors
Austar Arena Fri 25 Apr KO 5:00PM
Altona City v Moreland City
HC Kim Reserve
Werribee City v Brunswick City
Galvin Park Reserve
Cairnlea v Thomastown Devils
Cairnlea Park
Maribyrnong Greens v Altona East Phoenix
Skinner Reserve
Pascoe Vale v Williamstown
Hosken Reserve

State 2 SE
South Springvale v Port Melbourne
Warner Reserve (Sprinvale)
Stonnington City v Waverley Wanderers
Kooyong Reserve No. 3
Chelsea v Knox City
HD Thomas Reserve
Peninsula Strikers v Diamond Valley Utd
Centenary Park
Casey Comets v Eastern Lions
Comets Stadium
Northcote City v Doncaster Rovers
John Cain Memorial Park

State 3 NW
Lalor Utd v Sunbury Utd
HR Uren Reserve
Laverton Park v Lalor
Laverton Park Reserve
Sydenham Park v Geelong
Keilor Lodge Reserve
Westvale v North Sunshine Eagles
McKechnie Reserve
Yarraville Glory v Banyule City
McIvor Reserve
Geelong Rangers v La Trobe University
Myers Reserve

State 3 SE
Endeavour Utd v Sandringham City
Reema Reserve
Heatherton Utd v Boroondara Eagles
Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre
Springvale City v Doveton
Ross Reserve
Berwick City v Brandon Park
Jack Thomas Reserve
Southern Suburbs v Morwell Pegasus
Keeley Park
North Caulfield v Croydon City Arrows
SS Anderson Reserve Mon 28 Apr KO 8:30PM

Provi 1 NW
Elwood City v Avondale Heights
Elwood Park
Melbourne University Rangers v Melbourne City
Princes Park Oval #2
Glenroy v Western Eagles
Strathnaver Reserve
Hume Utd v Melbourne Tornado
Laura Douglas Reserve
Plenty Valley Lions v South Yarra
Bundoora Park Pavilion
Whittlesea Utd v Corio
Thomas Street Recreation Res.

Provi 1 SE
Nunawading City v Monash University
Mahoneys Road Reserve
Warragul Utd v Monbulk
Baxter Park (Warragul)
Scotch Old Boys v Noble Park Utd
H.A. Smith Reserve
Rowville Eagles v Ashburton Park
Ridge Reserve
Mooroolbark v Old Melburnians
Esther Park Reserve
White Star Dandenong v Fitzroy City
Greaves Reserve

Provi 2 NW
Keon Park v Collingwood City
JC Donath Reserve
West Preston v Melton
Oulton Reserve
North City Lions v Brimbank City
Wallace Reserve
Hoppers Crossing v Northern Falcons
Grange Reserve
Essendon Utd v Darebin Utd
Aberfeldie Park
Bell Park v Moreland Utd
Bell Park Sports Club

Provi 2 SE
Caulfield Utd v Keysborough
Victory Park
Lyndale Utd v Old Brighton Grammarians
Lyndale Secondary College
Riversdale v Dandenong Sparrows
Frog Hollow Reserve
Whitehorse Utd v Old Camberwell Grammar
Terrara Park
Old Trinity Grammarians v Mornington
Trinity Sports Ground
Berwick Kings v Carrum Utd
Betula Park

Provi 3 NW
Northern Utd v Watsonia Heights
Anderson Reserve
Mill Park v Youth Utd
Findon Reserve
Brimbank v Dallas Eagles
Italo-Australian Social Club
Epping City v Bundoora Utd
Casa D'Abruzzo Club
Moreland Wolves v Brunswick Zebras
Rayner Reserve
Surf Coast v Ascot Vale
Quay Reserve

Provi 3 SE
Beaumaris v Noble Park
Beaumaris Reserve
Seaford Utd v Bayside Argonauts
North Seaford Reserve
Dandenong City v Old Carey
Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve
Brighton v Eltham North
Dendy Park
Uni. of Melbourne v Keilor Wolves
Princes Park Oval #2
Dandenong Warriors v Endeavour Hills
Lois Twohig Reserve

Knox City moves up to second

Knox City 2
Stonnington City 1

Knox City moved into second place on the State League Division Two ladder and Stonnington dropped to one from the bottom in a scrappy encounter an Egan Lee Reserve on Saturday.
Knox had taken the lead in injury time in the first half with a tremendous volley from captain Nick Veljovic, but Stonnington had drawn level in the 73rd minute. The game looked as though it was going to finish all square until Tony Saunders popped up at the far post to score the easiest of goals with three minutes remaining.
Knox had an early scare when keeper, McEvoy came a long way from his goal and Madondo tried to lob him but failed to find the target.
Toomath in the Stonnington goal then saved a Saunders header at full length, but little was being created by either side. The state of the ground again proved to be frustrating for both sides.
Madondo was foiled by a desperate tackle from Nick Veljovic. Already on a yellow card, Veljovic had to back off to avoid contact as Madondo raced through but he recovered well to put in a timely tackle as the forward was about to unload.
As the first half was petering out, Knox grabbed the lead in spectacular fashion. They won a free kick out wide on the right. The ball was headed clear by the Stonnington defence but as it dropped 25 metres out Veljovic hit a thunderous volley which left Toomath clutching at air as it whistled into the net.
Knox almost doubled their lead two minutes into the second half. Good work by Nedza resulted in a cross that Hoogendyk volleyed. Unfortunately, the ball flew straight at Toomath who parried the shot and Valadon drove the rebound wide.
Nedza then beat Toomath to the ball but his lob missed the target. Toomath landed awkwardly and had to be substituted.
From appearing to have the game by the scruff of the neck, Knox went off the boil and Stonnington, aided by some shrewd prompting from Smith in the middle of the park, got on top. Long balls were driven into the area and McEvoy had to make a couple of fine stops to keep the home side in front.
In the 73rd minute, Knox lost the ball in the middle of the park and it was played to Wilson whose deep cross evaded the Knox defence allowing Gongordu to head home in style.
Stonnington's substitute keeper, Polizopoulos made a great one handed save from a Nick Veljovic free kick on the edge of the box and it looked as though both sides were going to have to settle for a point until three minutes from time when a long throw on the right wing was nudged across goal and it evaded all defenders to find Saunders on his own at the back post for a simple tap in.

Knox City: K. McEvoy, A. Edgar, C. Kerr, P. Veljovic, J. Hingert, N. Veljovic,
Z. Buljabasic, M. Hoogendyk (Z. Martinez – 62nd), J. Valadon, P. Nedza (L. Grubic – 79th), A. Saunders (G. Moon -91st). Sub not used – M. Jorgensen.

Stonnington City: A. Toomath (T. Polizopoulos – 51st), A. Varvalho, P. Liapis,
A. Wilson, A. Jackson, T. Williams, J. Manolis, J. Sastre (Gongordu – 17th), A. D'Ortenzio, P. Madondo, C. Smith. Subs not used – J. Rayfield, J. Menelaou, G. Andrews.

State League Div 2 SE
By Bruce Darnell

Souths Trump Wanderers again in Derby

Waverley Wanderers 2
South Springvale 3

Waverley Wanderers are still looking for their first ever win over local rivals South Springvale after South triumphed 3-2 in the derby at Carlson reserve on Saturday. A new look Wanderers, who have several ex-Clayton City and Southern Stars players in their line up, struck first against a South Springvale side who have retained the bulk of last year's squad.
Defender Perry Pantelidis fired a left foot shot home from the edge of the box in the 18th minute. However the home team could only hold their lead for a minute before South's' lively striker Arthur Koloskopis equalised from a Mark Panaghis cross.

Souths looked threatening in the first half, with a good balance in attack. The home side came back into the game in the latter part of the first period with Marcello Pizzirusso and James Tournas involved in promising moves. However goals to Louie Diniotis and Chris Andronicou in a five minute spell in the second half, gave the visitors a three one lead at the 52nd minute mark. A defensive error in the 80th minute gave the Wanderers a chance to get back into the game when Silvio Kramar converted a penalty to narrow the visitors' lead to 3-1. The home team went close to stealing a late equalizer when sub Nick D'Angelo fired wide of the target after Pizzirusso played him in behind South's defence.
South Springvale coach Pierre Petropoulos commented after the game, "I think in the end, today was a fair result although in the end we could have had another two or three goals. We had more chances and more play than they. We dominated a little bit."
Wanderers coach George Liakopoulos said afterwards, that despite the seven goals conceded by his team in the last two matches, he didn't feel the defence was a problem. "It's the middle. They're running out of legs. Look, I've gathered this team together just three weeks before the season. So they're about one and a half months away. Match fitness is lacking. There are some positives from the game. We pressed well when we didn't have the ball. Closed them down quickly and frustrated their game plan. Don't forget, they're a young squad. I just think other teams will have to watch out when this team can play 90 minutes."

Picture: Waverley's Fithi Alfa, closely watched by South Springvale' s Richard Swingler

State League 2SE
By George Stogiannou

Brunswick Stumbles Against Altona

Brunswick City 0
Altona City 1

On a sunny Saturday afternoon Brunswick City came out on to the pitch as favourites to win the fixture against the to date winless Altona City. For the superstitious the bad omen occurred early when Brunswick's in form left wing back, Adam Franklin, hobbled off the ground it what appeared to be a season ending knee injury. Brunswick appeared flat even though they appeared in command of the midfield. Charlie Egan's boys were content to attack the flanks and get in behind the defence. In fact Cullen and Memishi on the right caused some headaches against the young and inexperienced replacement for Franklin. The best chance of the half for Altona came in the 25' as Cullen got in behind the defence on the right and cut the ball back to Saric. The latter hit the target from 10 yards out but Brunswick's custodian, Dimitropoulos, pulled off a great save from point blank range to keep the scores deadlocked. Two minutes later Brunswick, through Sanita broke free and he too laid the ball off to Stafrace who lacked composure rushing his shot and sending it well over the bar. The 32' changed the whole complexion of the game. Altona won a free kick wide on the left of the park (front third). The resultant free kick was overhit and beat all players appearing to be headed for goal as it bounced in front of the keeper. Dimitropoulos just got his fingertips on the ball parrying it onto the bar. The rebound off the post fell perfectly for Saric who side footed the ball into the net giving the visitors the lead(0-1). The score remained this way until the end of the half with Brunswick appearing 'flat' in contrast to their previous two games. Ciantar's half time address proved to be effective as the Brunswick boys came out in the second half more invigorated and started to get on top whilst playing some excellent free flowing football. In fact it was mainly one way traffic with Egan content to defend and try to hit Brunswick on the counter. The tempo went up a notch in the 60' as Jackson's long range shot was spilt by the Altona City custodian and a minute later again could only parry a Con Vouloumanos 'pile driver'. In the 72' some great defensive work by Sanita turned a defensive situation into an attacking situation but his final shot went just wide as it skimmed the post. Brunswick were relentless as Ismail shot just wide in the 80' too. As Brunswick began to get more desperate and commit more players forward 'cracks' started to appear in its defence. When 'man of the match-Tony Saric' rounded Jackson in the 88' to be one on one with Dimitropoulos the game appeared to be over. Dimitropoulos though was magnificent as he parried the ball onto the post and out for a corner keeping the flame, albeit weak, lit for the home team. But when another good chance was thwarted in the 89' after Sanita's shot on goal it was clearly not going to be Brunswick's day. This was confirmed with the sound of the final whistle giving Altona their first points of the season and leaving Brunswick to wallow in what could have been. Despite not scoring there were enough encouraging signs for Ciantar's boys to take into next weeks away game against Werribee.

Goalscorers: Tony Saric 32' (Altona City)
Best: Sanita, Dimitropoulos, Karas, Jackson
Line up: Dimitropoulos, Danos, Jackson J.Vouloumanos, Franklin (13' Papliakakis) (72' Athanasopoulos), Karas, O'Brien (70' Gonullu), Ismail, Sanita , Stafrace, C.Vouloumanos

State League Div 2 NW
By Elias Simopoulos

BOO'S WORLD With Mark Boric

Juventus are coming to Melbourne! And no, it's not Whittlesea Zebras changing their name, it's the real Juventus. 2006-07 Serie B champions! Hope they don't do an AC Milan and cut the game short because they have to get to the airport.

The FFV and Doncaster Rovers have really gotten into the Small Sided Games concept. A man sent-off for each side in their first game of the season against Stonnington, then four Chelsea players in their next. Third game of the season saw them lose a man against Casey Comets. Fellows, the Small Sided Games program is meant for juniors and is about smaller
sized pitches as well, not just teams!

Whilst on the subject of the referee's antics, look no further than the letter to this paper from one of the great servants of the local game, Mr Neilson Love, last week for the question everybody is asking. "Has our FFV instructed the referees to hand out red cards at $160 per card to fill the coffers of our Federation?"

Sydney's Ruben Zadkovich has signed for Derby County. "I can only see them going back to the Premier League, which has to be the goal" he told the press. I wouldn't be so confident in a side that has nearly copped as many poundings as the blonde in manager Paul Jewell's sex tapes.

Big Bad Barry has a teary...Don't let Vinnie Jones get a sight of that or that guy who cut Eduardo's leg off!

It took a while for the first coach to be dismissed in the Foxtel Cup this season, but as usual once the first goes they start dropping at regular intervals. Adam Jamieson and Willie Raynes resigned from Frankston Pines during the week as it all starts to go pear shaped on the Peninsula.

Perth Glory is looking for FFA handouts. Seems like it's time to add Former into the middle of their name. Not that Melbourne Victory isn't a bit of a misnomer at times. Still, at least Perth's new striker, Eugene Dadi, knows that if the club falls behind in wage payments, he will be okay as he is old enough to get a pension.

It annoys me when after a high profile incident in the AFL like the Barry Hall punch at Brent Staker that somewhere you will read that this is good for our football as mum's will steer their boys away from AFL. Who said we need soft, mummy's boys? Mums, take your lads to mixed netball if you feel like that, Kevin Muscat, Vinnie Jones and the bloke that cut Eduardo's leg in half are testament that football can be as violent as any other contact sport played by aggressive males.

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KATSA'S KORNER With George Katsamboukas

Another week, another coaching change and the scorer is laughing all the way to the J Walker distillery.
The latest wicket to fall is that of Frankston Pines Jamieson, aka Jamo.
The scorer has number four very close at hand as he will be using it this week and number five is not too far away either.
However, the news is not all bad for Coaches as the good folk from the House of Darebin announced this week the formation of the FFVCA.
Now I know that here are a lot of F's in the name of this new association, and before everyone's imagination runs wild and gets the better of them, it actually stands for "Football Federation Victoria's Coaches Association.
Over to the FFV website we go which describes the role of this association to be:
"The opportunity to receive assistance and further develop your coaching knowledge and education is available to all coaches in Victoria. Share in your experience and listen in to the ideas of other fellow coaches to build greater coaching in our state."
For a nominal fee, all up and coming Gaffers as well as the seasoned campaigners who have about 15 different Coaches jackets in their wardrobes, compliments of the many clubs that they have served, will receive the following benefits, too name but a few.

• FFV Satchel
• FFV Cap
• FFV Polo shirt
• Free entry to coach education workshops
• $32 discount when taking your Junior Licence
• $20 discount when taking your Youth Licence
• $25 discount when taking your Senior Licence
• Monthly meetings to put forward your ideas and listen to the ideas of other coaches
• Discount entry to the 2008 Coaches Conference
• Monthly FFVCA Newsletter
• Access to a new online resource with information on training methods, drills, exercise and nutrition recommendations for your players
• Free VIS seminar
• Tour VIS facilities including the Lexus Centre, with the opportunity to be inside the change rooms at half time for a VIS match (subject to numbers and date approval)
• The option of an overseas tour to some European clubs (Depending on numbers and availability)

In order to fill the void between being a Coach which is currently employed, and a Coach who is the unemployed, the Scorer and Katsa decided that a support group needed to be formed, to help these Coaches's cope with losing their jobs.
For a nominal fee, they will receive the following.

• J Walker Cap
• W N Field Polo shirt
• Free directory to Melbourne's' many Bottle Shops
• CD of Whitney Houston's "Where do Broken Hearts go" and Franky Sinatra's classic "I did it my way"
• Free unlimited access to seek.com.au
• Free copy of Katsa's new book "How to lose friends and influence Club Powerbrokers"
• The option of an overseas tour to the J Walker distillery (Numbers and availability is not an issue)
• Unlimited access to Psychological Practitioners

And as a last minute addition, Gus "Sir Alex" McLeod of Langwarrin FC fame, has kindly jumped on board to provide lectures to Coach's hoping to return back to gainful employment on the finer art of smoking cigars whilst coaching without getting busted.
Registrations are now open, any takers?
Over to Doncaster Rovers way go where the Red Card count continues to climb this week.
Three games played so far there this Season for a total of 7 Red Cards issued by the Men In Black.
Perhaps an exorcism is required to be performed there to stop this trend?
Ernie's boys head of to Japan this week to face Gamba Osaka in a do or die match.
They plan to fly in the day before the match, hopefully get a result and then fly out.
Anything short of a win could see the Victory Boys eliminated from the "Happy End" Cup
In other breaking news coming out of the Victory Camp this week, it was announced that Juventus would be playing a friendly against Victory on May 30.
Telstra Dome should be packed out for this one, me personally I won't be attending as I still miss watching the now defunct Brunswick Juventus at the now demolished Olympic Park Greyhound track, scene of many Juve Victories on a Sunday, backed up by bundles of $$$$ dropped by Katsa on Monday's Greyhound Racing Nights.
I caught a quick glimpse of Ernie, dressed in his finest suit, on Foxtel discussing the upcoming Juve game, which lasted all of three seconds, perhaps Foxtel were giving Nasal Spray Technology a plug?

Until next week.
This is Katsa – Just as you've known him.

And remember, be good to your Mum; avoid eating greens at all costs; avoid Grants Whiskey and always, but always, knock before you enter the Men In Blacks Rooms both before and after a match!

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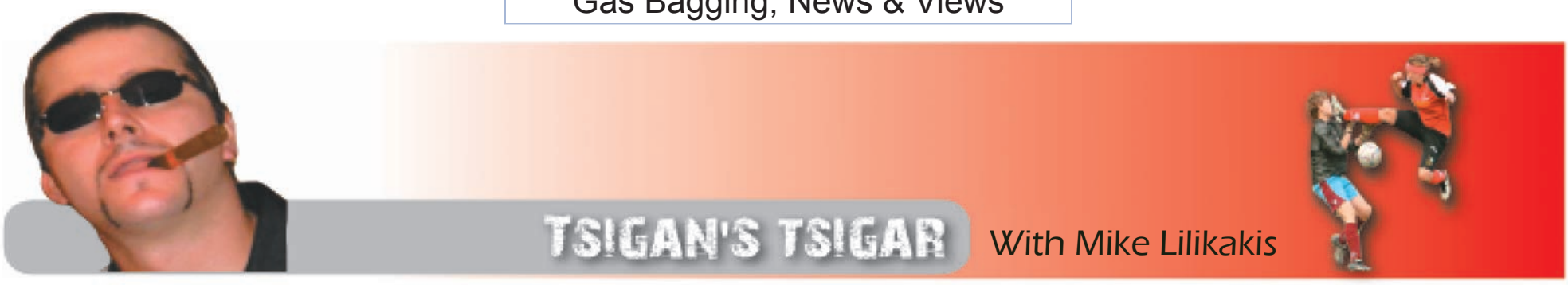
Gas Bagging, News & Views



CRECE UNAS BOLAS

To think I wasted my years at Wog School learning Greek, when I should've learnt Spanish. Not that there's anything wrong with Greek. It all sounds Greek to me. It's just that Spanish has a few great cracks at the adverb and pronoun, and deserves a mention in the paper every now and again. Henceforth, there shall be more Spanish en la casa.

Referees are put into the frying pan again this week, and let's stick it to a wee bit off FIFA and other affiliated administration types, because of their lack of teaching referees the basics in crece unas bolas.

It's astounding to see games like Rugby Union or League, where the players are 17 feet in diameter by 32 feet in circumference; heading NE, nodding and paying respect to the man in charge of the game, particularly after a call/decision is made.

Even if those shaved guerillas can barely strum 4 notes or 6 words together, the respect they show to the umpires/referees is astounding.
The first twenty minutes of every game is known as the "softening up" period. Elsewhere it is called an all in brawl. When the ref/ump blows his whistle, the boys stop, wait, watch and scowl. They also huff and puff.

None of this arm waving, rooster calling, chicken clucking, cow mooing, dog barking etc.com kaka that you see at a "soccer game". In "soccer", ear biting is considered non violent, because its just part of the way the players congratulate one another after scoring a goal.

TAKE TWO

The referee/umpire makes a decision, and a player is called into question. The player walks up to the "official" arms down and takes the explanation. If needs be, he cops the decision and walks away or, walks off according to the punishment meted out.

No fuss.
No elbowing.
No head butting.
The referee is untouchable.
Period.
Meds.
Tampax.
No more for me thanks, I'm driving.

"Soccer" shows us what players are like, being the prima donnas they are.
Soon as a "soccer" player doesn't like or objects to a decision made by "The Bloody Ref", he goes on a rant, a rave, a howl, a snap, a crack, and a yawp.

Nothing short of a batso, or fappa.

"KUMMON!" cryeth Lleyton Who It.
The powers on high should concentrate on developing this element, and trampling the back talk underfoot. Beep beep doodily doodooloo. Beep beep doodily doodoolo.
The sooner it's put into effect, the sooner we can watch the game instead of focusing on the theatrics which are nay Shakespearean, or something composed by Aristophanes.

KARNA KANGAS!

What a game by the Kangas.
Ripped the Pies and ripped the pies.
You couldn't beat a better team to beat.
$16.90 for a pie, chips and Coke?
You're dreaming mate.

Toto did wee wee's on the Tin Man.
Farrah Fawcett married Yaser Arafat, and they made a Farafat.
Mr. T3PO, is a bad ass version of the Star Wars whining sack of nuts and bolts.

GRATIS

A few quick thank youse grouse like to the West End Massive who have kept me long, strong and loud as a gong, although only twice as annoying.

Emilio; thanks for covering me at that thing I do on Monday's between 6am and 8am.

Don Ciccio; bene grazi for the wonders of the "Wise Guy Talk". There's no finer paisan from New Jersey to teach you the wonders of words like, "moyder", "doyty", or "tawk".

Costa; didn't need the keg but thanks for the barrel.

Alfred E. Neuman; Gnab gib sblorgd gingt glit slorp gloink. Shplarpt gab de lens sa fra vreen pong SPLAT!
Zideet!
Klomp pwoing bing bang walla walla bing bang. Swap pflap shpat ripf tzing tzung funk.
Schkluck. Sklishkf fladat schklurt, fwam tikka tikka.
Bap plad fad.

P.S
Glush clift goon dong.
Shouk Shouk.

I invited Marlon Brando to a shindig once upon a rhyme, and we both didn't show.

PLATES

Smash 'em I say, but technically I'm regarding the ones on the front and back of vehicles.
Tarzan had "Swinger" on the back of Tantor.
Attila had "Hun1" on his steed.
Hitler had "Heil Me!" on the Merc."

I remember we were the "Garden State" once upon a baboon, until someone had the bright idea of being, "On The Move". So we went on the move, got rid of Polka Dot Kirner and stuck in "Bludee Tzeff".

He rocked, but that's my five cents.
Look at the Hawks now.

Somehow, we became "The Place To Be". Then Bracks flopped out the tax, and now we're paying for a Freeway which became a Tollway but who cares, because we hate Little Johnny.
Kevin 07 gives us 20/20, and now we are going to run ourselves. Goodnight politics. Hello Dolly.

Why doesn't the checkout automatically stop when you get to $30, and every $30 thereafter? It's not as if we get much back from 4-6c a litre, but its better than nothing.

When was the last time you went to a restaurant, and had a fly in your soup?
Why do we call them flies, when they don't fly, they just go around in silly patterns? Birds fly. We don't call them flies. I suppose we don't call flies, "crawls" either. The medication is wearing off. What are fleas really running away from? The soup? Fleas don't flee. They spring.
Why aren't they called "Springers?"

That's some scary soup.

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STARS COME TO THE FORE

In the European Champions League it often takes a great player, from a great club to assist in achieving a great victory. 2005 saw Liverpool's Steven Gerrard single-handedly guide his side to a fifth European crown; in 2006 we observed Ronaldinho's Man of the Match performance in the final secure Barcelona's second Champions League trophy; and 2007 witnessed World Footballer of the Year, Kaka, steal the show and seal A.C. Milan's seventh European Cup.

With a host of stars on display in two superb encounters, this week's semi-finals of the competition should be no different.

With Barcelona's potent pair Thierry Henry and Lionel Messi; Liverpool's dominant duo Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres; Chelsea's stars Didier Drogba and Frank Lampard; and Manchester United's deadly duet of Christiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney, there will be some extraordinary battles between a selection of the best footballers in the world.

Of course in many cases teams readily have the talent elsewhere to help achieve victory, but it is the above names who consistently perform and guide their team to a higher level.

When Liverpool hosts Chelsea at Anfield on Wednesday morning (AEST), both teams will be looking to their big-match performers to step up and provide the difference.

The Merseysiders will rely on Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres to continue their deadly partnership, in their surge towards their third final in the space of four years.

The pair has formed a lethal association both domestically and in Europe, with the two combining a total of 11 goals thus far in the Champions League campaign.

Gerrard has played a part in 10 of Liverpool's 26 goals, scoring six and providing four assists, illustrating why the Liverpool faithful worship him so highly.

In his first season for Liverpool, Torres has run English and European teams rampant with his pace and clinical finishing.

Torres, or 'El Nino' as the fans call him, has provided five goals, on many occasions in stunning fashion.

With a total of 30 goals from 42 appearances in all competitions this season, Torres has been a key figure in his first ever season in the Champions League.

Red's boss Rafa Benitez will look to the crucial impact that Torres and Gerrard can inflict on opposition and which has seen his side eliminate the likes of FC Porto, Inter Milan and Arsenal on their way to the semi-finals.

Whilst Liverpool's number 8 and number 9 will provide stiff opposition for the Blues, the Reds will also have their own troubles in containing Chelsea's stars Didier Drogba and Frank Lampard.

Lampard and Drogba have played a part in 10 of Chelsea's total of 15 goals this campaign, showing their dominance in the Chelsea side. Drogba has scored four goals and provided one assist whilst Lampard has contributed two goals and three assists to help take the Blues to a semi-final appearance against their English rivals.

The top European clubs will be depending on their big name players to shine during the semi finals this week. Liverpools Fernando Torres (above), Barcelona's Ronaldinho, Chelsea's Didier Drogba and Manchester Utd's Cristiano Ronaldo will paramount.

Whilst Drogba has not had his strongest season in comparison to last season when he finished top goal-scorer in the English Premier League, he still poses a constant threat to any defence with his power and strength.

The Ivorian has been a constant thorn in Liverpool's side in recent encounters and may well make the difference between the two sides.

Lampard will almost certainly play a pivotal role in the semi-final clash, with his superb long-range passing, dead ball specials and fierce shooting.

Although the Liverpool – Chelsea clash will be a much anticipated encounter, it will be the mouth-watering prospect of Barcelona's clash with Manchester United that will gain much of the focus.

With the likes of Portuguese winger Christiano Ronaldo facing off against Argentine super-star Lionel Messi, it should be an intriguing encounter.

Ronaldo has taken both Europe and the English Premiership by storm this season, topping the goal-scoring charts in both competitions with 28 goals in the league and seven in the Champions League.

Ronaldo's dazzling footwork, scintillating speed, lethal free-kicks and superb finishing have had pundits labelling him as the greatest player on the planet, and targeted him as a severe danger to Barcelona's final hopes.

His team-mate and strike partner Wayne Rooney will also provide a huge threat to Barcelona's shaky defence, with four goals in Europe and 11 in the Premier League, making the two 'Rs' the most deadly strike force in England since Dwight York and Andy Cole.

Barcelona will have to curb the dangers posed by Rooney and Ronaldo, but Manchester United will have a couple of concerns of their own.

Lionel Messi is currently fighting a fitness test to face United, but is expected to play, and this could provide Barcelona with both a morale boost and the power up front to unlock the Red Devil's defence.

Messi has produced six goals this campaign, despite missing match-time due to a recurrent thigh injury, and has helped Barca eliminate the likes of Schalke 04, Celtic and Lyon.

'The little miracle', as the Barca fans call him, will also have the assistance of French magician Thierry Henry in their bid to topple the English giants.

Although the former Arsenal striker has struggled to fit into the Spanish lifestyle at the Nou Camp, Henry's contribution is always felt throughout the team.

His remarkable pace, close control and composed finishing allow him to penetrate even the tightest of defences.

Henry scored an impressive total of 42 goals in Europe at his time at Arsenal, and although he has only managed three this season with Barcelona, he always presents a complex challenge for opposition defences.

With an abundance of talent on display in the semi-finals, the Champions League is sure to produce some intriguing performances from the stars of the World Game.

By Julain Ross

Champions League Reporter

STEVEN O'CONNOR

GIVE AN AUSSIE THE TOP JOB!

'Rocky' O'Connor goes out swinging

The recent announcement of Steve O'Connor's appointment as technical director of A-League giant Sydney FC brings to an end his 12-year reign as head coach of the Australian Institute of Sport's men's football program but if you thought 'Rocky' was going to go quietly think again.

"They'll probably end up (replacing me) with a Dutch coach. They seem to be flavour of the month right now. I'd rather see the job in Aussie hands but that's up to the powers that be," said O'Connor.

His reasoning may be spot on as he also suspects that the position of head coach of the AIS program will be merged with the job of head coach of the national under-20 side.

O'Connor's last game in charge of the AIS side that competes in the Foxtel Cup will be on Friday 25 April when his young charges tackle Melbourne Knights at Austar Arena in Creswick Road, Ballarat, as part of Football Federation Victoria's push to take the elite state competition to regional Victoria.

When O'Connor relinquishes the AIS reins, his assistant, Ray Junna, will take over on an interim basis.

Junna, who was an AIS scholarship holder in 1982 and 1983, went on to become a National League player and also played in the NSW State League and ACT Premier League. He has a Graduate Diploma in Sports Coaching and was the AIS scholarship coach in 1995 and 1996. Between 1998 and 1999, Junna was head coach of the ACT Academy of Sport. In 2000, he took up his appointment as AIS assistant coach.

And when O'Connor takes up his new post in May he will be reunited with former club and Socceroo teammate John Kosmina (head coach at Sydney FC) and the pair have maintained a long-standing friendship that was struck in the late 1970s.

"Look, it's something different. They (Sydney FC) contacted me and they're interested in doing a number of things. I've been here (Canberra) a long time and I've really enjoyed it but now Sydney's getting up its own system and me and 'Kossie' have known each other since our days at Sydney City.

"I'll set up an academy and a youth team and play a part in developing the club culture, bringing young Sydney players into the club and working with them. It will allow talented players to have somewhere to go locally.

"I'll also be liaising with other clubs and associations and developing good relationships with them. I'll also be working with 'Kossie' with the first team.

"One of the things we'll be doing is setting up a strengthening and conditioning section so that we can develop powerful athletic players. Often young players break down when you increase their workload and we've got to address that situation."

O'Connor was inducted into Football Federation Australia's Hall of Fame in 2003 and has been head coach of the AIS football program since 1996.

The 46-time Socceroo has been responsible for nurturing some of Australia's most outstanding young talent. Mile Sterjovski, Vince Grella, Josh Kennedy and Brett Emerton are among a host of players who can attest to that fact.

The AIS is regarded throughout the world as being at the forefront of elite athlete development and the Institute's football program is testament to that reputation. International stars including Mark Viduka, Craig Moore, Ned Zelic, Marco Bresciano and former Socceroo and national coach Frank Farina all came through the AIS program.

O'Connor leaves behind a successful legacy and one that the FFA will be keen to see is nurtured carefully. It was his drive and enthusiasm that was at the forefront of the AIS participating in Victoria's Foxtel Cup competition and his will be giant-sized boots to fill.

Steve "Rocky" O'Connor has left the AIS after 12 years service

> They'll probably end up with a Dutch coach. They seem to be flavour of the month right now. I'd rather see the job in Aussie hands but that's up to the powers that be
> **- Steve O'Connor**

By Craig McKenzie

Photo courtesy of AIS

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HALL OF FAME, MINUS ONE

Di Fabrizio's departure opens up vacancy

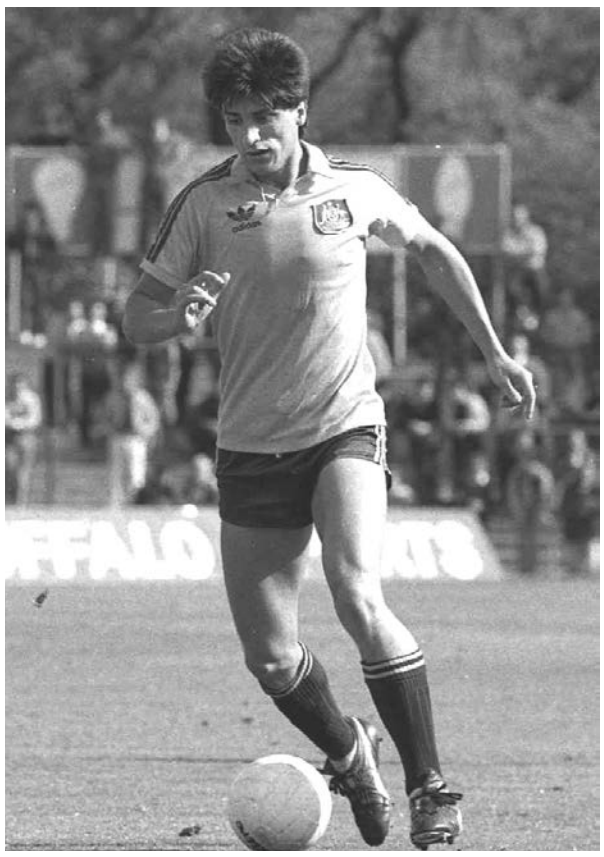
The recent retirement of leading Gippsland and Victorian football administrator, Don Di Fabrizio, has opened up a spot on Football Federation Australia's Hall of Fame committee but at this stage there is uncertainty as to how that vacancy will be filled.

There are four members on the committee which considers nominations lodged by 28 February each year and the decision regarding new inductees is usually announced in September or October of the same year.

Presently the committee consists of Ted Smith, Ted Simmons and Gary Cole and the criteria they operate under in selecting inductees is that successful nominees must have dedicated a large part of their lives to the development, growth, exposure and professionalism of the game in this country.

The Hall of Fame was established at a meeting of then Soccer Australia's commissioners on 2 June 1996 at which it was agreed in principle to form an independent committee to acknowledge and honour outstanding services to the sport in this country.

At the time it was envisaged that the Hall of Fame ceremony would become one of the major annual events on the football calendar but it remains to be seen whether that aim can be realised.



Oscar Crino: The Argentinean born Socceroo dazzled crowds with his silky skills and flair in the *80's.

Former Socceroo skipper Charlie Yankos proudly holds Katsa's favourite trophy "The Winfield Cup".

Alan Davidson: The midfield maestro was one of the most accomplished footballers of his generation and admired by Socceroo fans everywhere.

Here is the full list of Hall of Fame inductees, with the year of their induction in brackets:

Abonyi, Attila (1999), Ackerley, Stan (2002), Adair, Ron (1999), Allen, Ken (2003), Alston, Adrian (2000), Armstrong, Jim (1999), Arnold, Graham (2004), Arok, Frank (1999), Baartz, Ray (1999), Bainbridge, Barry (2000), Bambridge, Chris (2000), Barclay, John (2007), Barlow, Fred (1999), Barnes, Murray (2000), Baumgartner, Leo (2001), Bayutti, OA, Jim (1999), Bennett, Col (2003), Bignell, Bob (1999), Blair, Steve (2007), Blanco, Raul (2006), Boskovic, Tony (1999), Broadbent, Les (2001), Brusasco, Ian (1999), Buljevic, Branko (2002), Byrne, Gary (2001), Cameron, Alec (2005), Campbell, Don (1999), Campbell, Ernie (2006), Caruso, Charles (2001), Cilauro, Vito (2003), Clarke, Todd (2004), Cole, Gary (2003), Connell, Jim (2000), Conquest, Norman (2002), Constantine, John (2001), Coolahan, William (Bill) (1999), Corrigan, Brian (1999), Corry, Ron (2000), Crino, Oscar (2000), Crisp, Allan (2002), Croft, Harry (1999), Crowhurst, Roy (2003), Curran, Col (1999), Dalgleish, Vic (2005), Date, Reg (1999), Davidson, Alan (2001), de Bruyckere, Michael (1999), Deas, Theresa (2003), Dockerty, Harry (1999), Dolan, Julie (1999), Druery, Roy (2004), Drummond, Cecil (2001), Dunn, Robert (2001), Dunster, Gordon (2004), Evans, Jack (1999), Farina, Frank (2001), Fletcher, John Walter (1999), Fraser, John (2002), George, OA, Sir Arthur (1999), Gibb, Alex (2000), Gibbs, Arthur (1999), Gilbert, Pam (1999), Gilmour, Keith (1999), Grant, Sid (2001), Gray, Peter (2003), Gray, Ian (2004), Greedy, Terry (2007), Grimson, Tom (1999), Harding, David (2003), Harlow, Denis (2003), Harris, George (2002), Heath, Eric (2001), Henderson, William (Bill) (1999), Henderson, Tony (2001), Hetherington, Harry (2005), Heydon, Cindy (2002), Hoar, Betty (2003), Honeysett, Joseph J (2003), Hughes, Jack (2004), Hutchison, Fred (2004), Ivanovic, Milan (2003), Jack, Tom (1999), Jennings, Graham (1999), Johns, Alan (1999), Johnston, Craig (2005), Jones, William (2000), Kannangara, Dr. Siri (2002), Klose, Dieter (1999), Kosmina, John (1999), Kovac, OAM, Tony (1999), Krncevic, Eddie (2000), Kruger, Andre (2006), Lamb, Roger (2005), Lawrie, Bob (1999), Lefevre, Brian (1999), Lennard, Percy (2003), Lennie, Eddie (2007), Logan, Jack (1999), Lord, Ron (1999), Loughran, Frank (1999), Mackay, Jim (1999), Maher, Allan (2005), Marmaris, MBE, Theo (1999), Marocchi, Gary (1999), Marston, MBE, Joe (1999), Masters, James (Judy) (1999), Matic, Zoran (1999), Maunder, William (1999), McDermott, Dennis (2002), McIver, Frank (1999), McMillan, Graham (1999), McNabb, James (1999), McShane, Bob (2001), Melta, Sergio (1999), Miles, Des (1999), Millman, Joanne (2002), Mitchell, David (2006), Monteath, Sue (2004), Morrow, Bruce (2005), Murphy, Philip (2005), Murphy, Ken (2001), Murray, Les (2003), Nikolich, Peter (1999), Nunn, Gordon (1999), Nyskohus, John (1999), Oakley, Jane (2004), O'Connor, Pat (2001), O'Connor, Steve (2003), Ollerton, Peter (2002), Olver, Jeff (1999), O'Neill, Kevin (2000), Papasavas, OAM, Sam (1999), Parsons, Frank (1999), Perin, John (1999), Perkins, Charles (2000), Petersen, Mike (2005), Poulakakis, Emmanuel (2000), Quill, Alf (1999), Rasic, Rale (1999), Ratcliffe, David (2001), Re, Julius (1999), Reid, Heather (2007), Reilly, Jack (2004), Rennie, OAM, Doug (2001), Richards, Ray (1999), Robbins, Fred (2002), Roberts, Arthur (2001), Rooney, Jim (1999), Rowley, Ted (2007), Royal, Martin (1999), Sandell, Ray (2006), Sander, Cliff (1999), Savor, Wally (2003), Scarsella, Basil (2001), Schaefer, Manfred (1999), Scheinflug, Les (2000), Scheinflug, Les (1999), Schwab, Laurie (1999), Selby, Connie (2004), Sharne, Peter (2006), Slater, Robbie (2005), Smith, George (1999), Smith, Ron (1999), Stewart, Charlie (2006), Storey, Sydney (2003), Sutherland, Donald (2000), Tagg, Trixie (2007), Tann, Anissa (2007), Tansey, Jim (2001), Taylor, John (2000), Telfer, Robert (1999), Thomas, William (1999), Thomson, Eddie (2002), Thorne, Peter (2004), Tobin, Alex (2007), Turner, Bill (2001), Tuting, MBE, Vic (1999), Utjesenovic, Doug (2000), Valentine, Charles (2000), Van Ryn, Peter (2003), Vasilopoulos, George (2002), Villiers, Fred (2006), Vlasits, Joe (1999), Vojtek, Billy (2001), Vrolyks, OAM, Bill (2001), Wade, Paul (2000), Walkley, Sir William (1999), Wallace, George (2001), Warren, John (1999), Watkiss, John (1999), Watson, Joe (2000), Watson, OAM, Elaine (1999), Weinstein, AM, MBE, Michael (1999), Wilkins, Gary (2005), Wilkinson, James (2002), Williams, Harry (1999), Wilson, Peter (1999), Woods, Rod (2002), Worthington, Eric (1999), Wright, Ron (1999), Yankos, Charlie (1999), Zabica, Robert (2006).

GALAXY EXORCISE THE RED DEVILS

Zilic canot believe he is being sent off...He'll have time think about it during his suspension

Round 5 saw four out of the five matches being played at night with Adelaide Galaxy fighting out a 2-1 win over the Campbelltown City Red Devils at Con Makris Park. In a game where crunching tackles and close checking were the order of the day, both sides worked hard to take the three points away from each other. The Red Devils took the lead early in the match via a Simon Catanzaro goal, but Galaxy found themselves all square after an 'own' goal was scored by Red Devil's player Zilic five minutes later. On the half hour Zilic's run of bad luck continued, when he was found guilty of infringing a Galaxy player and was shown the red card by the referee, signalling his end to the game and reducing Campbelltown to ten men for the rest of the match. Scores were locked at 1-all as both sides went in for the break, disappointment evident on the face of Campbelltown's coach Rocky Aloisi. In his half time talk, Galaxy's coach Carl Maynard reminded his chargers of their less than favourable home record, only winning one of their last five at home and conceding 18 goals in those matches. He spoke of how they needed to turn that around so that home ground advantage meant just that that, a win every time. With that reinforcement, his lads came out with a renewed purpose producing some promising runs forward, reward coming from a goal by Eli Vlassis in the 55th minute. This was moments after Galaxy had been let off when a Campbelltown shot for goal had hit the underside of the cross bar and came down close to the goal line. A very vocal Galaxy goal keeper Julian Torresan kept his players focussed to maintain the high level of physical play that was required in this game, at times getting too physical, Galaxy giving away a penalty midway through the second half. Red Devils captain Elias Demourtzidis stepped up for the spot kick but uncharacteristically, put the shot wide to the right of keeper Torresan, the save sending the home crowd into loud applause and cheers of delight. As frustrations grew on both sides and huge tackles were being put in left, right and centre, the referee was kept busy with his one-on-one chat sessions with individuals, reminding them to maintain the peace in a game that was played with no love lost between both sides. Campbelltown's coach Aloisi brought on fresh legs to give more spark to attack but Galaxy fought off each attack well and made their own counter-changes. Towards the end of the match, a brilliant run by Galaxy from a long ball that landed perfectly at the feet of Greg Hagias, looked like a certain goal once struck, only to be denied by a great save from Red Devils keeper Nigel Young, one of many he made during the match. Galaxy, now hitting their straps had another shot at goal, saved again by Young leaping to great heights to get his fingertips to the ball to hit the apex of the bar. In a last ditch effort to equalise, Campbelltown's Simon Catanzaro went all out and took a solo run down the middle of the park, passing it to a team mate, this time Galaxys' keeper Torresan rising to the occasion. As the final whistle blew, it signalled the end of one of the hardest and most physical matches seen by spectators this season. After the match, Galaxy's coach Carl Maynard agreed the team had a slow start to the game.

"We allowed our opposition to play but after about 15minutes, we closed in on them and frustrated them with the result of their player being sent off. Despite the fact we didn't utilise the extra man that well, anymore goals coming from the game would have come from Galaxy."

In the only day game played, Raiders continued their run of drawn matches with a 2-2 result to Modbury Jets on Saturday which takes their record to 11 draws out of their last 21 home matches at the Croatian Sports Centre. Jets flew out of the blocks immediately, Simpson scoring in the first minute of the match and recent signing Nick Dawes proving his worth for the club with the second later in the half. The first half was played out in a fast but tight style, with Raiders' Michael Paleka pegging back the Jets lead when his goal took the score-line to 2-1 as the sides went in for the half time break. The remainder of the match was a Jets' signature dish of a tough style of football, Captain Nathan Day yet again putting in a sterling performance in the back keeping the side together with his leadership. Raiders on the other hand showed why they can grind out draws against their opposition, when in the last 7 minutes of the match speedster Osama Malik snatched the equalizer, denying the Jets the three points. Jet's coach Duane Gray said that coming away from Raiders with one point was a decent result for any side.

"We didn't play particularly well today but we fought hard throughout the game. The pitch made it very hard for both teams to play entertaining football."

Metrostars stretch their winning streak

Another free entry home game at TK Shutter Reserve proved a winner as MetroStars stretched their unbeaten streak to a perfect five wins out of five matches with their 2-0 victory over visiting White City Warriors. Both sides had key players unavailable due to injury, the Warriors being without suspended Michael Keens after his send off in the Cup game the previous week and MetroStars not having the services of skipper Ivan Karlovic amongst others. Stars striker and leading Super League goal scorer Scott Tunbridge, was unable to add to his tally of 6 goals this week. He was substituted by coach Mike Barnett in the 75th minute mark for Daniel Spagnuolo, who went on to score the second goal of the game showing his brother Jason Spagnuolo of Adelaide United is not the only one who is talented. Jason Spagnuolo is also an ex-MetroStars player. Adriano Pellegrino who has had a brilliant start with his new side this season scored the other goal of the match.

Adelaide Blue Eagles are showing that their 50th anniversary year may just be lucky for them when they downed the Knights 2-0 down at The Paddocks on Saturday night. Records show that the last time Blue Eagles beat the Knights in league competition was way back in round 13 2003, though funnily enough this would only be the third league match being played between these two teams since that time, with the Knights winning both matches last season. Coach Rob DiTroia's Knights were heavily wounded the previous week in their big 7-1 loss against Campbelltown in the Cup and needed some resurrection to get the engines powered up again and some much needed points. The Blue Eagles, also needing their first win for the season took the game into their own hands going 1-nil up through a Damien DiMella goal at the 30 minute mark of the game. But it looked as if the Gods were smiling on the Knights, when Eagle's player Steven Kidd was sent off later in the game, his actions earning him an early shower and a red card. Unfortunately, the Knights were unable to capitalise on the extra man, with the Eagles scoring again courtesy of Ricardo DaSilva, earning them their first win and leaving the Knights in a precarious position with only the one point from five matches.

Adelaide City take on Croydon Kings on Monday night at Adelaide City Park Oakden at 7:30pm. This will be the first ever Monday night game that the Kings will be playing in the Super League taking on the second placed Adelaide City coming off a great 13-0 Cup win last week over International in Mt Gambier. Kings on the other hand being dealt a surprise defeat at the hands of the young elite SASI team in extra time in the Cup. The last time these two teams met was in round 19 in 2004, when goal scoring guru Damian Mori scored a hat trick in a 5-1 victory to City. Kings will be without some of their players due to injuries while Adelaide City will be without Adam Osman due to work commitments being loaned to Mt Gambier's International but gaining new signing Evan Gooding from Adelaide Galaxy just this week.

By Nat Adamopulos

Photo by Adam Butler

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SUTHERLAND STILL UNBEATEN, WOLLONGONG MOVING UP FAST

Wollongong FC continued their steady rise up the table with a 3-0 win over Bankstown City, Osagie Ederaro adding to his already impressive goal tally for the season.

Another solid win was posted by Sydney United at Lambert Park, where APIA-Leichhardt were embarrassed 3-0 at home.

Marconi are still without a win in the competition, after being held to a 2-2 draw at home against the West Sydney Berries. Two headed goals in the first half saw Marconi race to a comfortable lead, but the Berries replied with two goals in quick succession at the end of the half.

Sydney Olympic were kept scoreless for the second successive week, drawing 0-0 with the Macarthur Rams at Campbelltown.

GAME OF THE ROUND

Sutherland Sharks 0
Blacktown City 0

The Sutherland Sharks remain unbeaten in the 2008 NSW Premier League, but they were made to work hard at home against Blacktown after being reduced to ten men shortly before the interval.

The game was pleasingly even from the outset, with both sides looking to attack and maintaining a crisp pace. It was Blacktown who had the first two chances of the game; first Brian Vanega, playing a neat one-two with Leo Carle, burst into the Sutherland area but shot just wide; a few minutes later, Jordan Simpson, advancing from midfield, whacked a powerful shot at goal, which was somewhat luckily blocked.

At the other end, Sutherland's left-winger Shane Lyons constantly threatened to get in behind the Blacktown defence, but the away side's offside trap was working most effectively, and Lyons found himself constantly thwarted by the linseman's flag.

Sutherland's best chance of the opening period did, however, fall to the feet of Lyons. David Reid sent in an excellent cross from the right, Blacktown 'keeper Ivan Necevski fumbled, but Lyons could not quite get to the loose ball in time.

In first half injury-time, Sutherland's left-winger was yet again called offside, and it was too much for midfielder Reid, who let the referee know exactly what he thought of the decision. The referee presented Reid with a red card for his troubles.

The second half was full of action, and Sutherland, despite being down to ten, still played with great vigour and enterprise.

On 47 minutes, a deep cross from Blacktown's Daniel Wilkinson almost crept in at Philip Zabaks' far post, but the Sutherland gloveman managed to make a clean catch. Immediately, the ball was launched down the other end, and Brad Boardman almost scored a cheeky near-post goal with a gentle flick when Michael Katz's adroit cut-back reached him. Necevski reacted quickly, and Lyons again failed to reach the rebound in time.

Lyons was involved yet again a few minutes later, when Boardman cleverly released him for a run in the inside-left channel. Racing into the box, he slammed his shot into Necevski's midriff.

Sutherland continued attacking, despite their numerical deficit. Boardman headed over from another Katz cross, Brendan Gan curled a left-foot shot wide after Leo Carle had been dispossessed in midfield, and a left-wing cross from Lyons came back off the Blacktown bar. It was hard to tell which side had eleven, and which ten!

Blacktown, however, rallied after the hour, and on 70 minutes, there was dire confusion in the Sutherland box following a corner; eventually, Tyler Simpson found room for a low shot, which was cleared off the line.

Nick Stavroulakis came on for Sutherland, and almost immediately found room for a thunderous 30-yard shot at goal, which was saved magnificently by Necevski. Katz and Boardman then combined once more for Sutherland, the right-back again hitting the by-line and firing in a low cross, which Boardman side-footed into the arms of a relieved Necevski.

In the final minute of normal time, Zabaks almost gifted the away side the points with a bad fumble in the box, but the left-footed volley from Blacktown substitute Chris Bedzo flew agonizingly wide. 0-0 it finished, with both sides deserving great credit for a stirring game.

By Mike Salter
in Sydney

HOBART ZEBRAS COME GOOD

Champs get off the mark after fustrating opening

Reigning southern Tasmanian Premier League champions Hobart Zebras finally came good last Sunday after a slow start to the defence of their title by thrashing bottom-side Taroona 12-0 away at Kelvedon Park.

It was the Zebras' first league win of the season after winning the pre-season Summer Cup tournament and it moved them up from seventh to fourth on the ladder.

Their fans had been disappointed with their dismal start to the league campaign in which they earned a single point from a possible six in the first two games. It was hardly the way to defend their title.

Against Taroona, however, Zebras led 7-0 at the interval. Ben Crosswell finished with four goals, Dylan Fennell grabbed a hat-trick and Ricky Self scored twice, while Aaron Brazendale, Henry Fagg and Josh Thorpe netted a goal apiece.

Taroona were destroyed and their morale must be at rock bottom. Their young and inexperienced goalkeeper will probably need counselling before their next match as he must be suffering from shell-shock.

University moved from fifth to third spot after downing Metro 3-0 at home at Olinda Grove on Sunday, the visitors dropping to seventh.

University led 1-0 at the break through an Alexis Bull goal in the 18th minute.

Bull chested the ball into an empty net after Metro goalkeeper Michael McKenna collided with team-mate Adrian Lawler while attempting to cut out Sam Griffiths's cross.

University moves from fifth to third after beating Metro at home

Aaron Hindmarsh made it 2-0 in the 51st minute, squeezing a low shot inside McKenna's left-hand post, while Bull added the third in the 72nd minute from Richard Maddock's square pass inside the box.

Hannes Blaas, University's new Italian signing, had a fine second-half debut and should have scored four minutes from the end, but McKenna managed to parry his shot and Stuart Hope cleared off the line.

New Town Eagles stole the show as far as goals were concerned in the second qualification round of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy State-wide competition on Saturday, beating Hobart United 7-1 at Olinda Grove.

Amadu Koroma led the charge with a hat-trick for Eagles, who led 3-0 at the break.

Adam Shackcloth netted a brace and Alex Leszczynski and Adam McKeown grabbed a goal apiece to complete Eagles' tally, while Andrew Otto scored United's consolation goal.

A goal 13 seconds from the end gave Prospect Knights a 4-3 away win over Ulverstone, Anton Balym, John Slater, William Firth and Chris Pickering netting for the visitors, and Adrian Beard, Laurie Tabrett and David Meldrum for the home side.

First Division Kingston Cannons downed visiting northern Premier League side Launceston United 5-3 at Sherburd through a hat-trick by Akhilan Krishnan and a goal each by Steve Giudici and Tuach Huseyin. Mark Dobson, with two goals, and Greg Duffy replied for Launceston.

Kingborough Lions United squeezed home 3-2 against Metro at Lightwood Park through two goals by Ryan Bevan and one by Brett Andrews, while Stuart Dawes and a penalty by Shane Kent was Metro's response.

University overcame Taroona 3-1 away at Kelvedon Park through goals by Julian Proud, David Buxton and Hannes Blaas. Toby Dove replied for the home side.

Riverside Olympic beat southern visitors Christian United 5-0 through goals by David Oosterloo, Sam Hughes, Will Guy, Ethan Olner and Ashby Newman.

By Walter Pless
Photos by Walter Pless

TARTAN TALK with Nic Townsend

Heart of Lithuania

One of the things fans of Scottish football have been missing this season are the crazy antics of Hearts owner Vladimir Romanov. All last season the Lithuanian millionaire made my job easier by always giving me something entertaining to write about. But he has largely been quiet this season…until this week.

At a meeting with shareholders Vladimir's son Roman continued his father's habit of sprouting paranoid conspiracy theories, eccentric accusations and unrealistic ambitions. While many would put Hearts poor season down to an inability to play decent football, Roman alleged Hearts were a victim of a plot hatched between the SFA, referees and the Old Firm, who apparently collude to fix the result of every SPL season. By daring to win the Scottish Cup in 2006, Roman asserts, Hearts have upset the status quo forcing the Scottish football establishment to conspire against them. In the same meeting Romanov refused to address any criticisms from disillusioned fans, labelling them "provocateurs", thus further cementing Hearts' resemblance to an old Soviet state.

The one thing missing from the league this year is Romanov's antics

SPL Premiership's Dramatic Turn

Celtic's dramatic 2-1 win over Rangers last Wednesday night has kept alive the possibility that Rangers won't run away with the premiership just yet. Extended runs in the League Cup, Scottish Cup and UEFA Cup means the Rangers' squad have been working hard and are currently experiencing heavy fixture congestion. Celtic is now one point behind Rangers, although the Gers still have two games in hand. At the time of writing Celtic were about to play Aberdeen and if they win they'll take top spot. Although again Rangers will have three games in hand as this weekend they're playing St. Johnstone in the Scottish Cup semi finals. If Celtic manages to maintain a winning streak they can potentially build up a lead on the top of the table, thus putting pressure on Rangers not to drop points in their remaining games. Motherwell, Hibs and Dundee United are all in hot pursuit of third spot, and will not let the Gers take points off them easily. With so many games still to play and an increasing injury list, the premiership is still there to lose. A similar fate befell Celtic when they played in the UEFA Cup final in 2003.

Job Insecurity

Sven Göran Eriksson became the latest manager this week to come under undeserved pressure and criticism. City's poor form since January has led to speculation that Eriksson's days are numbered and he would have been far from reassured by owner Thaksin Shinawatra refused rule out his sacking at season's end.

Admittedly City has been poor of late, but it bears keeping in mind that this time last season, the club was looking at relegation. City is still on track to reach their highest points tally since the premiership's creation, and still a chance of qualifying for Europe

Eriksson finds himself in such a predicament because of Shinawatra's ridiculously unrealistic expectations. Of late City has been linked to players like Ronaldinho and Henry, giving some indication of the dream world Shinawatra inhabits. But despite his shabby treatment Eriksson has at least kept his sense of humour: "I don't know if Ronaldinho wants to play in the InterToto Cup next season."

League One Chaos

League One was thrown into chaos this week after it emerged that Leeds United could potentially have their 15-point penalty restored at season's end. The judicators assigned to Leeds' appeal against their points reduction have claimed they will not be able to deliver a verdict until May 1, after the regular season ends and eight days before promotion play-offs begin. At the time of writing Leeds sit 6th in the League One table and look certain of a play-off place. However if their 15 points are restored, they'll move up to 2nd and claim an automatic promotion spot, most likely at the expense of Carlisle. If only a portion of their reduction is restored, it still has the potential to affect the play-off positions and fixtures.

Not surprisingly competing clubs are preparing legal challenges of their own in case Leeds prevails. The potential is there for a very sticky legal situation to emerge at season's end.

Gossip and Transfer Speculation from the English Media...

Redknapp sues Police

LONDON - Portsmouth manager Harry Redknapp launched a court action Wednesday against the City of London Police for arresting him as part of a football corruption probe. Redknapp and his wife Sandra are seeking a judicial review of the police's decision to arrest and bail the Pompey boss and issue a warrant to raid the couple's home in Poole on the southern English coast.

Redknapp was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud and false accounting in November 2007.

The couple lodged the action at at London's High Court.

A court spokesman confirmed the action had been received and said the first hearing would be on May 2 - just over two weeks before Portsmouth face Cardiff in the FA Cup final at London's Wembley Stadium on May 17.

The City of London Police declined to comment.

Following Redknapp's arrest, he called a press conference to say he was furious about his and his family's treatment and felt he had been targeted to raise the investigation's profile at a time when he was being touted as a possible future manager of England in succession to Steve McClaren.

Cech not ready to end it

Goalkeeper Petr Cech says Chelsea can still win the Barclays Premier League. The Blues are now five points behind leaders Manchester United after Monday night's 1-1 draw with Wigan Athletic with both clubs having played the same number of matches.

Gloom is starting to descend on Stamford Bridge but Cech believes the title race will remain alive if Chelsea can beat Everton on Thursday.

The Czech, who returned to action against Wigan wearing a specially-made chin strap to protect 50 stitches in a facial injury, said: "We are not throwing the towel in yet. We are all disappointed because we conceded a late goal and lost two points. But we had a difficult first half and didn't create many chances."

Ronaldo is over rumours

Manchester United winger Cristiano Ronaldo says he is angry at all the speculation over his future insisting on Wednesday that he wants to stay at Old Trafford.

The Portugal international has scored 37 goals this season and that dazzling form has prompted links with some of United's leading European rivals.

But the 23-year-old told The Sun newspaper that he wasn't planning a move away from Manchester any time soon.

"I just don't care what the whole world seems to want to say about me or speculate about my future.

"I've said it a thousand times and, by now, people should realise...I'm totally happy at United," he told the tabloid.

"I'm in the form of my life and I'm having the season of my career so far so it makes me mad sometimes to read some of the things which are supposed to be related to my future.

"I get angry but I'm trying to accept it's a waste of energy to be furious because it is not worth it."

Haim angry over Maurinho

Chelsea defender Tal Ben Haim has insisted he would never have signed for the club had he known Jose Mourinho was about to be replaced as manager by Avram Grant.

Ben Haim, a longstanding target for Mourinho, eventually joined Chelsea last June. But only months later Mourinho had left Stamford Bridge to be replaced by Ben Haim's fellow Israeli Avram Grant.

Ben Haim has played just six matches since the turn of the year - just two of those in the league.

"Jose Mourinho is the reason I came to Chelsea and if I knew Avram Grant was going to be the coach then I would have signed for another club," former Bolton favourite Ben Haim told Wednesday's edition of the Sun tabloid.

"It was Jose who brought me here and no one except he and I know the conversation we had when he tried to sign me the first time a year ago last January," he added. "The fact is while Jose was the coach I played most of the games and people who know me know that I would not have come here to be a reserve.

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